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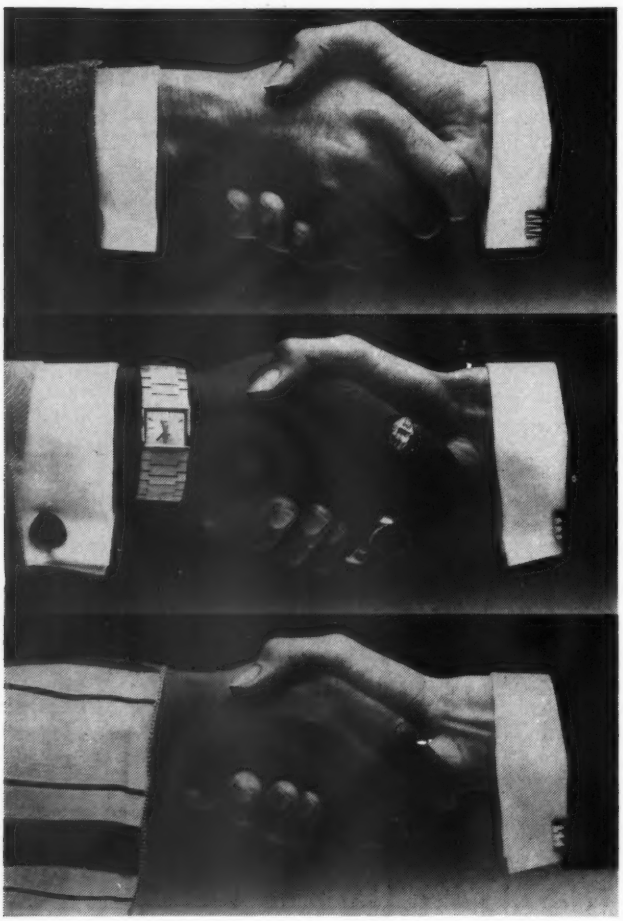

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Trade and Industry

9 May 1975

News from the Departments of Industry·Trade·Prices & Consumer Protection

Better known for its previous role as the Ministry of Public Building and Works, the Property Services Agency (PSA) provides land, accommodation, fixed installation, transport services and supplies for government departments, the armed forces and other approved clients in the public sector. Looking at some aspects of this work, a feature on page 346 describes how the PSA has pioneered a new Method of Building and a new approach to interior design.

Trade and Industry

Incorporating the Board of Trade Journal

Volume 19. No. 6.

Pages 337 to 384. 9 May 1975.

Price 15p. Net subscription post inclusive, £11.44

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Subscriptions: HMSO PO Box 569, London SE1. 01-928 6977 ext. 472

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Home News

Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Bill – 'vital part of Government's industrial strategies' says Tony Benn

Tony Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, made the following statement on 1 May, following publication of the Government's Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Bill:

'The Government's Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Bill published today gives effect to our proposals to take these industries into public ownership. It follows my detailed statements on aircraft (15 January 1975) and shipbuilding (17 March 1975); I also announced the broad outline of the compensation terms on 17 March, together with a detailed statement of provisions to safeguard the assets to be nationalised against dissipation in the period before vesting.

'There are to be two statutory Corporations. One will be called "British Aerospace" (instead of the previous provisional title "Aircraft Corporation of Great Britain") and the other "British Shipbuilders".

'The Bill sets out the constitution of the two Corporations, and their relationship to the Government. There are several important features. First the Corporation will have very wide powers subject to the Secretary of State's consent, to diversify and to acquire other companies by agreement. Second, there is provision for the Corporation's powers (Clause 2) and their duties (Clause 3) to be amended by statutory instrument subject to affirmative resolution. This is analogous to the freedom a company has in general meeting to alter its Memorandum and Articles of Association. Without in any way reducing the degree of Parliamentary control, this will help us to avoid the statutory rigidity which sometimes hampers nationalised industries in their commercial operations. Third, we shall be aiming to operate our relationship with the new Corporations at the strategic and corporate level; Clause 7 of the Bill sets out arrangements for discussion and approval of Corporate Plans which (though already in operation with most nationalised industries) are new in statutory form.

'The Bill was finalised after our consultations with interested parties over many months on our proposals to take these two industries into public ownership. I attach the greatest importance to the references to industrial democracy. The Bill places an obligation on each Corporation (Clause 2(7)) to have full regard to the need to promote industrial democracy in their undertakings. The Industry Bill contains a similar provision for the NEB but this is otherwise a new departure for nationalised industries legislation. This will be reinforced by an obligation (Clause 18(3)) on each Corporation to include in each Annual Report a review of its progress towards full industrial democracy. These provisions demonstrate the importance the Government attaches to this question. They underline our intention to bring about in these industries a fundamental and irreversible shift of power in favour of all those who work in the industry – by hand and by brain.

'The Bill sets out, in Clause 11 and Clause 45, the financing limits of the Corporations. These represent the best current estimate of what is required for the next five years, and this should allow the industries to plan ahead. As is normal with nationalised industries, Parliament will have to consider new legislation to raise the limits.

'Finally, the Bill fills out the details of the compensation arrangements within the broad outline already announced. Basically compensation which will be in Government stock will be determined by reference to the average values of securities of the companies named in the Bill during the chosen reference period. Securities listed on the Stock Exchange will be valued at the average of their Stock Exchange quotations on each Wednesday in the six months to 28 February 1974. Unlisted securities will be valued by agreement between the Secretary of State and a stockholders' representative, or failing agreement by an Arbitration Tribunal under a legal Chairman appointed by the Lord Chancellor, as if they had been listed in the same period. Where there have been certain types of dissipation of assets on or after 28 February 1974, an appropriate deduction will be made from the compensation. New securities issued or loans made on or after 28 February 1974 to finance new investment will be brought into account at par in settling compensation. This will allow parent companies, without adverse effect on their compensation, to continue financing subsidiaries which are to be nationalised so that business and especially investment can carry on as usual in the interim period.

'The Bill is a vital part of the Government's industrial strategy. I believe it will enable both of these great industries to play an even fuller part in the nation's life, and contribute to the well-being and sense of fulfilment of those who work in them.'

New North West Regional Director for Department of Industry

Lady Bowden, who has been Regional Director for the Department of Industry in the North West since March 1972, is leaving at her own request early in June. She will be succeeded by Mr. Noel Stephen Belam, who was in the North West from 1967 to 1970 as Regional Controller for the Board of Trade. He is to be promoted to Under Secretary and will take up his appointment on 9 June.

Lady Bowden (formerly Mrs. Phyllis James till her marriage to Lord Bowden of Chesterfield last July) commenting on her early retirement says: 'I am retiring from the Civil Service prematurely (but not all that prematurely!). This is because I want to devote more time to my many interests, including my new family. I hope to find ways of continuing to serve the Region, whose welfare and prospects will always remain of the keenest interest to me.'

New Chairman for BOTB

Sir Frederick Catherwood has accepted the invitation of Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, to become Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board with immediate effect. He succeeds Lord Thorneycroft, the founder-Chairman, who has retired after the three-year period he undertook to serve and on his assumption of the chairmanship of the Conservative Party.

Peter Shore at the British Tourist Authority seminar

Speaking at the British Tourist Authority seminar in London on 30 April, Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade said that the Government expected the travel industry to 'Maximise the contribution which tourism makes to this country's ability to pay its way.'

He went on to point out that since 1968 there had not been a deficit on the tourism account although in 1973, when there was a rapid increase in outward tourism there was a nil balance. This was followed by a surplus of £129 million in 1974. The indications were that, in the short term at least, we should remain in surplus.

He said that overseas visitors spent about £820 million in the United Kingdom last year and when payments to UK carriers in respect of international fares were added the total earnings were over £1,000 million (compared with £382 million in 1968). This represented about 11 per cent of our invisible exports and 4 per cent of total exports.

Despite constraints on public spending Government was continuing to provide substantial support for tourism – over £11 million in grants-in-aid to the British Tourist Authority and the National Tourist Boards this year. The taxpayer was entitled to expect the maximum benefit in return. Mr. Shore said that the purpose of such support must be to stimulate the development of tourism in particular sectors, so that those who benefited could take over where others had begun. He asked for hard evidence that those who were enthusiastic were backing their faith with their own contributions.

In overseas marketing this could be done by supporting the BTA's travel workshops, by utilising the research which the Authority undertook and by making use of the BTA's advice as to the best methods of undertaking promotion in individual markets. But the Secretary of State warned 'We must increasingly and urgently expect the trade and local authorities and other local organisations to bear the cost of their own promotion and not to rely on the Government to subsidise it in addition to providing the infrastructure in the shape of the BTA.'

He called for new initiatives to be taken up by the tourist trade. It was estimated that £1,000 million was spent by visitors from overseas. But many came under the auspices of their own tour operators. British companies tended to be experts in the holiday business but so far seemed to have concentrated on taking Britons abroad and thought little about promoting tourism to this country. Mr. Shore encouraged companies to think seriously how to set about capturing some of this agency business.

He pointed out that the Export Credits Guarantee Department was able to consider insuring UK companies, which operated in the field of inward tourism, against certain of the risks of non-payment for such insurance.

Tourism could help us pay our way as a country. It could also be a vital injection to the life and prosperity of individual regions of Britain. Some areas were already witness to this, such as the Lake District and the West Country. In others there were resources as yet untapped. These could contribute to increase our overall earnings and their mobilisation could be the most cost effective way of bringing prosperity to the districts concerned.

These were the additional benefits the Government wanted to see from tourism, the widest mobilisation of its resources and the widest spread of its economic benefits throughout the country. For these tasks, tourism had two sides, marketing and capacity. New techniques would have to be devised for both if we were to make the break through that would bring more tourists here.

'We have,' he said, 'Entered into the first exploratory stages of shifting the pattern of work within the British Tourist Authority and the National Tourist Boards.'

Nevertheless, he foresaw certain disagreeable but inescapable constraints. The first was the need to reduce Government finance for some familiar activities if we were to tackle the next instalment in our programme. But Government, no more than business, should not expect to have to inject funds indefinitely into particular activities. The time came when they must be critically examined to see if they have not successfully fulfilled their purpose. The second need was for rigorous selectivity. It simply would not be enough to say 'Here is a venture which will sustain or promote tourism and for that reason let us allocate some Government funds'.

The Secretary of State recognised that many districts outside Development Areas would like to see assistance available under Section 4 of the Development of Tourism Act, extended to them. But he emphasised 'So long as funds are limited this kind of assistance must go where outside help is needed because the whole region's resources are meagre and where the benefits would be greatest for us all because they have an unrealised potential'.

Mr. Shore concluded 'Since we do not have long sunbaked Mediterranean beaches and Alpine ski slopes, we must boast the variety of our country and our people. If marketing can influence choice, let us market the many unique parts of Britain we have to offer and specialised interests to go with them. We have so much to offer; our scenery, our architectural and historical heritage, the great range of cultural and sporting activities that we engage in.' He had no doubt that tourism would respond to the new priorities.

Pan Am commission rates

The following statement was issued by the Department of Trade at 18.15 hours on 30 April:

> The Department of Trade has warned Pan American World Airways that it must not offer its ticket agents higher rates of commission than those approved by the Civil Aviation Authority as agents for the Department.

A spokesman for the Department said on 1 May 'Pan Am has been warned that failure to give satisfactory assurances on this could lead the Secretary of State for Trade to consider action to vary their operating permits so as to impose approved levels of agency commission.

'If Pan Am are allowed to pay higher rates of commission other airlines have stated they would have to follow Pan Am's lead, or even improve on the terms. This would lead to a chaotic situation in the short term, and in the longer term to increases in fares world wide.'

Notes

The level of agency commission on all international scheduled air fares is one of the general conditions applied to fares under IATA resolutions.

On 10 April this year Pan Am announced they were withdrawing their agreement to the IATA resolution on commission, and that from 1 April world wide they would pay an overriding 'incentive' commission of an extra 3 per cent on all ticket sales by any agent in excess of 90 per cent of the sales in the corresponding months of last year.

As a result of IATA meetings a fresh resolution which increases the level of agents' commission generally from 7 per cent to 7½ per cent, has been formulated. All airlines have indicated they would accept this resolution except Pan Am. The Civil Aviation Authority has announced its approval of these new commission levels.

Agents' commission on international air fares

The Civil Aviation Authority has approved the revised arrangements relating to commission payable to IATA-approved passenger sales agents which were developed at the IATA Conference in Nice last week.

Under these revised arrangements the commission payable to United Kingdom IATA-approved passenger sales agents will generally be increased from 7 per cent to 7½ per cent in respect of ticket sales made on and from 1 May 1975, except for journeys wholly within Europe, where the commission rate is already 7½ per cent.

Fishing vessel safety rules: senior surveyor appointed

Alexander Leslie, a native of Dumbarton, has been appointed Senior Surveyor (Fishing) and took up his post at Aberdeen on 1 May. He heads a team of 16 fishing vessel surveyors who have been specially recruited to carry out the surveys under the Fishing Vessel (Safety Provisions) Rules which come progressively into force from 1 May.

Under these rules all UK registered fishing vessels of 12 metres in length and above will, for the first time, be subject to a statutory survey for the issue of a UK fishing vessel certificate.

Older vessels built before 1947 and new vessels whose keels are laid after 1 May this year will be surveyed first and owners of these vessels should apply for a UK Fishing Vessel certificate as soon as possible.

Proposed acquisition by NFU Development Trust of FMC

Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has extended to 30 June 1975 the period within which the Monopolies and Mergers Commission are required to make their report on the proposed acquisition by the NFU Development Trust Ltd. of FMC Ltd. This follows representations from the Commission that there are special reasons why the report cannot be made by 12 May 1975, as specified in the reference.

The reference was made on 12 November 1974, under Sections 69(2) and 75 of the Fair Trading Act 1973. It required the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to report within a period of six months.

Under Section 70(2) of the Act the Secretary of State may allow one further period of not more than three months on any one reference on representations from the Commission that there are special reasons why the report cannot be made within the period specified in the reference.

The period for the making of the report is being extended because the subject matter of the reference has proved to be extremely complex; a substantial number of legal arguments have had to be heard and considered; an exceptionally large amount of detailed evidence has been submitted; and evidence is still being received.

Reference to Price Commission of food prices in outlying areas

The terms of the Price Commission examination of the price of food in outlying areas of the country were defined on 30 April by Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, in reply to a Question in the House of Commons. In answer to a Question, Mrs. Williams said:

'Pursuant to paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 1 to the Counter Inflation Act 1973 I have today referred to the Price Commission for examination and report the reasons for any higher levels in the prices (including delivery charges) of food (including non-alcoholic drink) in typical outlying areas as compared with the levels in other areas.'

The reference is made as part of the new arrangements announced by Mrs. Williams on 17 April for finding out the facts behind price changes. Under these arrangements, which enable price questions to be examined that have been raised by the public, consumer organisations and MPs references have already been made on:

- coal and manufactured solid smokeless fuels;
- sanitary towels and tampons;
- diabetic foods; and
- fish

The Price Commission's advisory function in dealing with references is entirely separate from their functions in applying the Price Code. The Commission are required to examine whatever question is specified in the reference, and report to the Minister who made the reference.

Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act 1958

Dealers in securities

The following changes have taken place in the lists of dealers in securities under Sections 3 and 16 of the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act 1958.

Licensed dealers

Additions:

Downing: John Cotterill Ralph Downing, 37 Upper Brook Street, London W1Y 1PE.

Corinthian Securities Ltd., 1-5 Harley Street, London W1N 1DA.

Camasca Securities Ltd., 40/42 Osnaburgh Street, London NW1 3NJ.

Professional Portfolio Planning Ltd., Sardinia House, 52 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3LZ.

No. 7 Investments Ltd., Hillgate House, 26 Old Bailey, London EC2.

Deletions:

Cannon Street Acceptances Ltd., 51 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 0AN.

Irwin and Co. Ltd., Swan House, 34 Queen Street, London EC4R 1BR.

Japan International Bank Ltd., 7/8 King Street, London EC2V 8DX.

G. Ross and Co. Ltd., 25 Harley Street, London W1N 2BR.

London and County Securities Ltd., 3 London Wall Buildings, London EC2M 5PN.

Change of name:

Stewart Salmon and Co. Ltd., to Selective Guaranty Ltd., 8 South Street, London W1Y 5PB.

Change of address:

London and City Trust Ltd., 18 Seymour Street, London W1H 5WB.

R. J. D. Hewitt and Co. Ltd., Empire House, 8 St. Martin's-le-Grand, London EC1A 4DN.

Chesterfield Street Trust Ltd., 19 Hanover Square, London W1R 0JP.

F. and C. Management Ltd., 1-2 Laurence Pountney Hill, London EC4R 0BA.

Anthony Gibbs (Personal Financial Planning) Ltd., 23 Blomfield Street, London EC2M 7NL.

Stanhope Finance Ltd., Rawdon House, Green Lane, Leeds LS19 7DT.

Henderson Financial Management Ltd., 11 Austin Friars, London EC2N 2ED.

P. R. Grimshawe and Co. Ltd., Yorkshire House, Greek Street, Leeds LS1 5TW.

Exempted dealers

Additions:

The Hokkaido Takushoku Bank Ltd., 6 Basinghall Street, London EC2R 2DR.

Change of name:

Netherland Bank of South Africa Ltd. to Nedbank Ltd., 37 Lombard Street, London EC3V 9BN.

Change of address:

European Brazilian Bank Ltd., Bucklersbury House, 11 Walbrook, London EC4N 8HP.

Banco de Santander SA., Bansander House, 30/32 Watling Street, London EC4P 4JH.

Industrial Mergers Ltd., 91 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8XP.

Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation Ltd., 91 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8XP.

The Vavasseur Trust Co. Ltd., Marlow House, Lloyds Avenue, London EC3N 3HB.

Authorised unit trust schemes

The following amendments have taken place in the list of unit trust schemes authorised under Section 17 of the Act and published in Part 5 of the 1974 Particulars of Dealers in Securities and of Unit Trusts.

Group and/or name and address of management company	Name of scheme	Name and address of Trustee
ADDITIONS		
G T Unit Managers Ltd., St. Martin's House, (6th Floor), 16 St. Martin's-le-Grand, London EC1A 4EP	G T Pension Exempt Fund	Lloyds Bank Ltd., 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS
Manulife Management Ltd., PO Box 21, Manulife House, St. George's Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 1HP	Manulife Growth Units	Lloyds Bank Ltd., 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS
Mercury Fund Managers Ltd., 30 Gresham Street, London EC2P 2EB	Mercury International Fund	Williams and Glyn's Bank Ltd., 20 Birchin Lane, London EC3P 3DP
CHANGES		
DELETE Gartmore Fund Managers Ltd., Cayzer House, 2 St. Mary Axe, London EC3A 8BP	Gartmore European Trust	Midland Bank Trust Co. Ltd., 27-32 Poultry, London EC2P 2BX
AND REPLACE BY Gartmore Fund Managers Ltd., Cayzer House, 2 St. Mary Axe, London EC3A 8BP	Gartmore High Income Trust	Midland Bank Trust Co. Ltd., 27-32 Poultry, London EC2P 2BX
DELETE Ansbacher Unit Management Co. Ltd., 1 Noble Street, Gresham Street, London EC2V 7JH	The North American Unit Trust	Midland Bank Trust Co. Ltd., 27-32 Poultry, London EC2P 2BX
AND REPLACE BY Lawson Securities Ltd., 63 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2JG	Lawson American Fund	Clydesdale Bank Ltd., 30 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow G1 2HL
DELETE Henderson Unit Trust Management Ltd., Crosswall House, 11-13 Crosswall, London EC3N 2LQ		
AND REPLACE BY Henderson Unit Trust Management Ltd., 11 Austin Friars, London EC2N 2ED		
DELETE Mayflower Management Co. Ltd., 241 Salisbury House, London Wall, London EC2M 5QU		
AND REPLACE BY Mayflower Management Co. Ltd., Clements House, Gresham Street, London EC2V 7AU		
DELETE Remigium Management Ltd., Woolgate House, Coleman Street, London EC2R 5BL		
AND REPLACE BY Remigium Management Ltd., 1st Floor, City Gate House, 39-45 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1JA		
DELETE Stratton Trust Managers Ltd., 8 Bishopsgate, London EC2		
AND REPLACE BY Stratton Trust Managers Ltd., 88 Leadenhall Street, London EC3A 3DT		

Clearance of merger proposals

Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection has decided, on the information at present before her not to refer the proposed merger between Croda International Ltd. and Midland Yorkshire Holdings Ltd. to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973.

G. and A. N. Scott Ltd. and Guardian and Manchester Evening News Ltd.

Consent has been given to the transfer of four newspapers owned by G. and A. N. Scott Ltd. to The Guardian and Manchester Evening News Ltd.

In a written reply in the House of Commons on 30 April, Alan Williams, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, said:

'Yes I received the report on 15 April and it is being published this afternoon. The Commission concluded that the transfer may not be expected to operate against the public interest. Formal consent is being given to The Guardian and Manchester Evening News Ltd. today.'

The newspapers concerned in the transfer are:

Rochdale Observer
Rossendale Free Press
Heywood Advertiser
Moston Middleton and Blackley Guardian

On 21 January 1975 application for consent under Section 58 of the Fair Trading Act 1973 was received in respect of this transfer. In pursuance of the requirements of the Act the matter was referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission on 12 February 1975 for investigation and report.

This was the seventh newspaper merger reference since the enactment, with the Monopolies and Mergers Act 1965, of legislation relating to newspaper mergers.

These provisions are continued in the Fair Trading Act 1973: any transfer of a newspaper to a newspaper proprietor whose newspapers would then have an average circulation per day of publication amounting, together with that of the newspaper concerned in the transfer, to 500,000 or more copies shall be unlawful and void, unless the transfer is made with the written consent given (conditionally or unconditionally) by the Secretary of State. Unless there are exceptional circumstances (there were none in this case), the Secretary of State may give consent, where the newspaper to be transferred has a circulation of 25,000 copies or more, only after an investigation of the proposed transaction by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

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To: The Industrial Expansion Team, Department of Industry, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW1P 4QU

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The Areas for Expansion

TI 2/55

Tea prices controlled

Price limits and controls over margins for subsidised tea came into effect on 5 May.

An Order laid before Parliament on 29 April by Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, sets the maximum retail prices which may be charged for specified brands of tea anywhere in the United Kingdom.

The Order also controls distributors' margins on all subsidised tea to ensure that the subsidy is passed through to the consumer. Prices in shops will therefore generally remain below the maximum.

Retailers will be required from 16 June to display in their shops a list of the maximum prices of the best-selling varieties of tea in packets and in bags.

The Order is the Tea Prices Order 1975 (SI 1975 No. 713) made under Section 2 of the Prices Act 1974.

The maximum prices are:

Variety of tea	Price in pence per 4 oz. weight
1 *Tea not in tea bags*	
Brooke Bond Dividend	9½
Co-op 99	11
Lyons Quick Brew	11½
Nambarrie	11
PG Tips	11½
Rington's Blue Label	11
Typhoo	11½

Variety of tea	Price in pence		
	Per 4 oz. weight	Per 8 oz. weight	Per 1 lb. weight
2 *Tea in tea bags*			
Brooke Bond Dividend	14½	28	—
Co-op 99	16	30½	60
Lyons Quick Brew	17	33	65
Nambarrie	15½	30	—
PG Tips	17	33	65
Tetley	17	33	65
Typhoo	17	33	65

In accordance with the Act, the Provisions of the Order have been the subject of detailed consultations with interested organisations, including Trade, enforcement and consumer bodies.

Bread prices

New retail price limits for subsidised bread came into effect on 5 May. An order laid before Parliament on 30 April by Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, increases prices by ½p on large and small loaves with certain minor exceptions.

The increases take account of the Price Commission's recent determinations on the notifications of proposed price increases submitted by the major bakers in the United Kingdom.

The Order is the Bread Prices (Amendment) (No. 2) Order 1975 S.I. 1975 No. 715.

The exceptions are:

8-10 oz. loaves for which no price increase is permitted in Great Britain:

28 oz. choila and 42 oz. loaves, which may go up by 1p: and

56 oz. loaves, which may go up by 2p.

The amended prices have been the subject of consultations with interested organisations.

Metrication Board's sixth report

The Metrication Board's report 'Progress in 1974', published on 29 April concludes that the change to metric in Britain is now irreversible and its remaining stages should be completed without further delay.

The report claims that there has been a lack of resolution and courage on the part of successive past Governments in relation to metrication, but notes that a faster and more decisive rate of progress is now intended. Completion of the remaining stages should be carried through without further delay, as much in the interest of consumers of manufacturers.

The Metrication Board's main recommendations are:

a The Government should make much more widely known the need for the change to be completed expeditiously and state its determination to complete the necessary legislative action. In particular, the Department of Energy should ensure that firm programmes are adopted in respect of fuel and power, and purchasing officers in Government departments and in all public and local authorities should be given firm instructions to specify their requirements in metric units.

b Statutory impediments to complete metrication should be removed by the amendment of the Weights and Measures Acts.

c Parliamentary approval should be sought for additional Orders to allow prescribed quantity goods to be sold in metric packs.

d The task of familiarising the public with metric measures and their use in everyday life, and with the changes that are taking place in the consumer goods sector, should continue.

Metrication in the construction industry

'Report on Metrication in the Construction Industry' – just published* by the Metrication Board – outlines the progress of metrication from 1967 to the end of 1973, and points out that metric buildings were being completed within three years of the publication of the original programme.

Construction was one of the first major British industries to tackle metrication – the first step towards making the change being made within days of the Government's announcement to Parliament in 1965 of the national metric policy.

The change to metric is now well on the way to completion, although the Report recognises that some parts of the industry may continue with imperial for some years. This is mainly due to the continuing need for maintenance. The Report says: 'The general conclusion must be that the transitional period of the change to metric has been accomplished with comparative ease.'

*'Report on Metrication in the Construction Industry,' a Metrication Board publication, is available from HMSO, 49 High Holborn, London WC1, and from branches and booksellers throughout the country (reference number ISBN 0 11 700199 6; price 58p including postage).

Relief for increases in the value of stock in trade

General

In his Budget Statement on 15 April, the Chancellor of the Exchequer said: 'There is one way in which I propose to help company finance, though this will not come as a surprise. The House will remember that when I introduced a measure of relief for corporation tax in the autumn, which was related to increases in stock valuations, I promised similar action again this spring. The financing problems of traders who replace their trading stock in times of inflation are very serious. They would be aggravated if tax had to be paid on profits calculated in terms of the traditional methods of stock valuation. My autumn proposals therefore gave relief for the abnormal inflationary element in the stock valuation, a relief which added some £800 million to company resources. And I then gave a pledge that some similar relief would be given again this year.'

Clause 49 and Schedule 9 of the Finance Bill, published on 29 April, contain the Chancellor's proposals. The relief is to cover two years, and will apply to all businesses, whether carried on by companies, partnerships or individuals. The amount of the relief will generally be the difference between:

a the increase in a business's stock holding from the start of its 1973 account to the end of its 1974 account; and

b 10 per cent of its trading income over the same period.

Those businesses that did not qualify for last November's interim relief will get a bonus (an extra 5 per cent of the relief) for having had to wait. Those companies which got the interim relief in November, will have it set against their two-year relief, and will receive any balance due (or in an exceptional case it will be recovered).

A company which was entitled to claim the interim relief but did not do so, can now claim the two-year relief.

Since the relief has now been extended to individuals and partnerships, as well as companies, separate provisions are necessary for income tax and corporation tax; these follow each other as closely as possible, given the differences in the basis of charge.

Clause 49

This Clause enables the relief to be given, in accordance with the rules laid down in Schedule 9.

Schedule 9

Part I provides the rules for individuals and partnerships (except where a partnership consists wholly of companies).

Paragraph 1 provides that relief shall be available where there is an increase in a person's trading stock over a 'base period'. This increase is referred to as the 'base period increase'.

The paragraph then says that the relief is to equal the amount of the base period increase less 10 per cent of the person's 'relevant income' over the same period. The relief is to be given by reducing the value of stock at the end of the base period. The value of stock at the beginning of the next period of account is to be correspondingly reduced (ie the relief is a deferral and not a complete exemption).

Where the trade began before 6 April 1973, there is to be a bonus (because an individual or partnership could not get interim relief in November) equal to 5 per cent of the amount of the relief now due. This is to be given by reducing, by that extra amount, the closing stock at the end of the base period. There will, however, be no corresponding reduction in the opening stock of the next period of account, so that the bonus represents a once and for all exemption.

To obtain relief, a claim must be made within two years of 5 April 1975.

Paragraph 2 sets out the rules for calculating the base period. For the normal business, the base period will be the two years for which accounts have been prepared and which end in the year 1974-75.

There are special rules where the accounts have not been drawn up on the normal 12 months basis. These provide that the end of the base period shall be the end of the last period of account ending in 1974-75 or, if there is no such period of account, the end of the first period of account ending in 1975-76. If the base period ends in 1974-75, it is to start 24 months earlier; if it ends in 1975-76, it is to start on 6 April 1973. If, however, that date is not the beginning of a period of account, the base period extends backwards to the beginning of the period of account current at that date. The base period cannot in any event begin before the commencement of trading.

Where the base period is 24 months, the base period increase and the relevant income are the actual amounts over the base period. But where the base period is longer than 24 months, the amounts are reduced, under *paragraph 3*, to a 24 month proportion. Where the trade did not begin until after 5 April 1973, there is a corresponding time apportionment.

Paragraph 4 deals with the case where a trade commences at the start of the base period. If the initial stock appears as opening stock in the business's accounts, the normal rules will apply. Otherwise, eg in particular where a new business is set up with no opening stock so that the normal formula would give too much relief, the Inspector of Taxes is to attribute to the business a notional opening stock of such amount as seems to him reasonable and just. In that case, the Inspector is to take into account, in reaching his decision, all the relevant circumstances, and in particular, the changes in cost levels and volume of trade during the year.

In the event of an appeal to the appropriate body of Commissioners, they are to have regard to the same considerations.

Paragraph 5 provides that if the person has ceased to carry on the trade at or before the end of his base period, he is not entitled to relief.

Part II gives the rules for companies.

Paragraph 6 introduces the 'base period increase' concept for corporation tax. As for income tax, the corporation tax relief is the base period increase less 10 per cent of the relevant income for the period. The relief is given by reducing the closing stock value at the end of the base period, and the opening stock for the next period of account is correspondingly reduced to provide for the deferral.

The 5 per cent bonus is limited to those companies which were excluded from the November interim relief because their stock was less than £25,000. It is given by further reducing the closing stock, and, because there is no corresponding reduction in the opening stock of the next period of account, is a once and for all exemption.

Claims by companies are to be made within two years of the end of the accounting period which ends in the financial year 1974.

Paragraph 7 gives the rules for calculating the base period. In the normal case, this will be the two years for which accounts have been prepared ending in the financial year 1974.

Again, special rules are necessary for those companies which have not prepared normal accounts. In those cases, the base period ends at the end of the first accounting period which coincides with the end of a period of account in the financial year 1974. If there is no period of account ending in the financial year 1974, it ends with the last day of the period of account which is current at the end of the accounting period ending in 1974. In the majority of cases, the base period will then begin 24 months before its end. If, however, this is not the beginning of a period of account, the base period begins with the start of the period of account which is current at that date. The base period cannot, in any event, start before the commencement of trading.

Paragraph 8 provides that where the base period is longer than 24 months, the base period increase is a 24 month apportionment. There is a corresponding apportionment rule where a company commences to trade after 31 March 1973.

Paragraph 9 deals with the circumstances where a company has two or more periods of account ending in the financial year 1974. The relief is to be available, under the normal rules, at the end of the first period of account, in relation to a base period ending on that date. A new base period is then determined, starting at the same date as the previous one and ending with the end of the later period of account. There is then a further calculation of relief, again on a 24 month basis, for this longer period. Because the opening stock of the second period is reduced by reference to the relief given in the first period, only the balance is allowed or recovered in the second period.

Paragraph 10 introduces the same rules for the commencement of trading as are provided for in paragraph 4 (for individuals and partnerships).

Paragraph 11 provides that a company which ceases to trade is not entitled to relief. Where a second company under the same control takes over the business, the relief is carried through and calculated as if the second company had always carried on the trade.

Part III provides various general rules.

Paragraph 12 provides that a person is to be regarded as ceasing to carry on a trade if there is a change in the persons carrying it on, even though he himself continues to be engaged in it immediately after the change. Where there are changes in the persons carrying on a trade (eg where there are changes in a partnership) the relief is carried through, as if there had been no change, provided that:

a at each change, there is at least one person continuing; and

b the trading stock is retained by the successors.

Where a trade is carried on by a partnership, the relief is to be given to the partnership on the basis of a single claim on its behalf.

Paragraph 13 ensures that the relief extends to professions and vocations, as well as to trades.

Paragraph 14 deals with cases where increases in the amounts of stock are abnormal, either because of artificial arrangements or because the conduct of the trade has varied. In such a case, the Inspector

of Taxes will limit the claim accordingly.

Paragraph 15 defines 'trading stock'. The definition is broadly the same as for the interim relief, but it now includes work in progress. It excludes securities, certain land held as an investment and goods which are let on hire or hire purchase. There are provisions for the deduction of payments on account received, from the value of the stock to which they relate.

Paragraph 16 defines 'work in progress'.

Paragraph 17 defines 'relevant income' to mean the income from the trade, profession or vocation as computed for Case I or Case II of Schedule D, except that capital allowances, balancing charges and losses are excluded.

Paragraphs 18 and 19 are clarification provisions.

Customs and Excise duties changes next January

The Commissioners of Customs and Excise are issuing a new Public Notice (No 473) to give guidance as to the Finance Bill provisions for restructuring the duties on spirits, beer, wine, hydrocarbon oil, matches and mechanical lighters. As from 1 January 1976, the revenue-raising elements of the customs duties on the goods affected are to be separated from the protective elements and charged as excise duties; the revenue element of the duty on imported wine together with the excise duty on British wine are to be replaced by new 'wine' and 'made-wine' duties.

The Notice is being distributed to traders and trade associations known to be concerned. Copies may be also obtained from offices of Collectors of Customs and Excise.

Onshore petroleum exploration licence

Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Energy, has granted a licence authorising the exploration for petroleum (ie oil and gas) to BP Petroleum Development Ltd. and the British Gas Corporation, under the provisions of the Petroleum (Production) Act, 1934 and related regulations.

The licence covers an area of 23 sq. km. in South Yorkshire.

It authorises the searching for oil and gas by prospecting and geological surveying, including drilling to a depth of not more than 350 m. to obtain geological information.

The licence does not confer the right to drill for or to produce oil or gas. Licensees must obtain the permission of landowners and occupiers before entering on to any land. They are also required to consult local authorities before carrying out any seismic survey or drilling operation and to obtain any planning permissions required.

The licence is valid in the first instance for a period of three years and may be renewed annually at the discretion of the Secretary of State for up to a further three years.

Patents endorsed 'Licences of Right'

Under Section 35 of the Patents Act 1949 the following patents were endorsed 'Licences of Right' on the date specified.

Number	Grantee	Subject-matter
11 April, 1975		
1,165,570	Agfa-Gevaert (formerly known as Gevaert-Agfa NV)	Photopolymerisation of ethylenically unsaturated compounds
1,185,984	Agfa-Gevaert (formerly known as Gevaert-Agfa NV)	Process for the preparation of polyesters of terephthalic acid and glycols
1,216,508	Agfa-Gevaert (formerly known as Gevaert-Agfa NV)	Silver complex diffusion transfer process
1,221,195	Agfa-Gevaert (formerly known as Gevaert-Agfa NV)	Improvements relating to mordanting of anionic compounds in hydrophilic colloid media
1,228,411	Agfa-Gevaert (formerly known as Gevaert-Agfa NV)	Improvements relating to photoconductive recording materials
1,237,687	Agfa-Gevaert (formerly known as Gevaert-Agfa NV)	A composite film and the use thereof as a base in photographic material
1,243,783	Afga-Gevaert (formerly known as Gevaert-Agfa NV)	Wrapping paper for photographic material
1,245,261	Agfa-Gevaert (formerly known as Gevaert-Agfa NV)	Improvements relating to diazotype copying
1,245,585	Agfa-Gevaert (formerly known as Gevaert-Agfa NV)	Diazo-type copying process
1,245,924	Agfa-Gevaert (formerly known as Gevaert-Agfa NV)	Improvements relating to thermo-recording
1,245,952	Agfa-Gevaert (formerly known as Gevaert-Agfa NV)	Improvements relating to mordanting
1,246,092	Agfa-Gevaert (formerly known as Gevaert-Agfa NV)	Improvements relating to thermographic recording
1,252,751	Agfa-Gevaert (formerly known as Gevaert-Agfa NV)	Recording of information using light- and heat-sensitive diazo-type materials
1,261,238	Agfa-Gevaert (formerly known as Gevaert-Agfa NV)	Processing apparatus
1,272,561	Agfa-Gevaert (formerly known as Gevaert-Agfa NV)	Method of incorporating photographic ingredients into colloid compositions
1,273,746	Agfa-Gevaert (formerly known as Gevaert-Agfa NV)	Unsaturated photochromic monomers and polymers prepared therefrom
1,278,415	Agfa-Gevaert (formerly known as Gevaert-Agfa NV)	Photochromic indolino-spirporyans
1,290,732	Agfa-Gevaert (formerly known as Gevaert-Agfa NV)	Flexible translucent coating films for drafting purposes
1,299,884	Agfa-Gevaert (formerly known as Gevaert-Agfa NV)	Spectrally sensitisation of a photo-conductive recording element
1,328,806	Agfa-Gevaert (formerly known as Gevaert-Agfa NV)	Light-sensitive silver halide emulsions stabilised against fog-formation
1,358,274	Agfa-Gevaert (formerly known as Gevaert-Agfa NV)	Photo-cycloaddition polymerisation of bis-anthracenes
1,359,819	Agfa-Gevaert (formerly known as Gevaert-Afga NV)	Electrophotography
1,359,820	Agfa-Gevaert (formerly known as Gevaert-Agfa NV)	Electrophotography
1,096,718	Esso Research and Engineering Co.	Method for forming welds between large tubular metal sections such as pipelines
1,121,824	Esso Research and Engineering Co.	Pipeline leak detector
1,248,850	Raoul Georges Duquenne	A machine for lifting beets or the like
1,255,412	Societe d'Etudes Ferroviaires	Improvements in or relating to an elastically yieldable insulating rail fastening device
1,310,937	Societe Anonyme Automobiles Citroen	Improvements in generating systems including alternators
1,314,898	Karl Gartner	Extrusion press for the manufacture of light metal profiles
1,330,539	Development Techniques Ltd.	Egg packaging
1,346,226	Osaka Gas Kabushiki Kaisha	Atmospheric gas burner
1,370,541	Heinrich Brechbuhl	Centrifugal fans
16 April 1975		
1,351,217	Alfred Pitner and Nadella	Improvements in or relating to bearing rings
18 April 1975		
1,206,889	Institut National De La Recherche Agronomique	Copying camera with binocular microphotometric control and focusing
1,239,609	Albert Rolland S A (formerly Laboratories Albert Rolland)	Process for the preparation of B-cycloalklpropionic esters of dimethylamino ethanol
1,264,947	Maschinenfabrik Wifeg (formerly known as Machinenfabrik Winkler	A guiding device for guiding printed paper webs
1,283,668	Hitachi Ltd.	Photoelectric conversion semiconductor element
1,168,153	Bayerische Motoren Werke Aktiengesellschaft	A motor vehicle wheel and final drive mechanism suspension assembly
1,190,169	Licentia Patent-Verwaltungs GmbH	Rapid shut-down system for water-cooled nuclear reactors
1,250,129	Jean-Paul Taupin	Valves for controlling the flow of finely-divided material from a hopper
1,284,662	Richard Douglas Pearson	Production of decorative articles

Any person who claims that the patentee at the time of endorsement of any of the above patents was precluded by a contract in which claimant is interested from granting licences under the patents may apply for cancellation of the endorsement on Patent Form No. 45 within two months after the date of endorsement.

E. Armitage
Comptroller

Britain

The Property Services Agency . . .

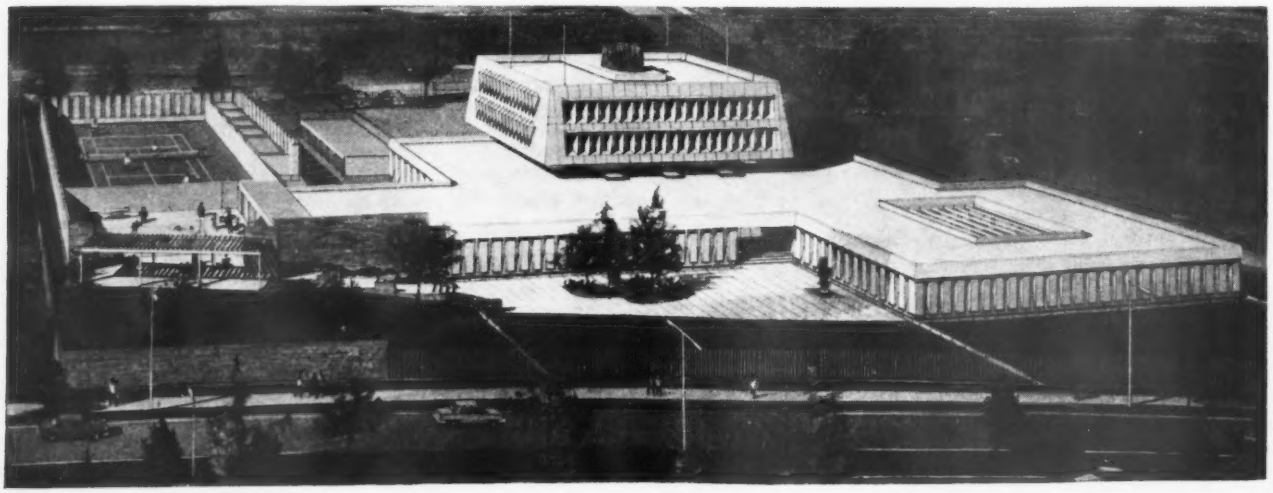
by Jennifer Clarke

The Crown or Central Government is bound to have a significant effect on design, but few people realise how positive this influence is likely to be. The Property Services Agency, still perhaps more widely known from its previous role as the Ministry of Public Building and Works last year spent over £400 million on new buildings and maintenance and about £140 million on furniture and other supplies. Expenditure at this level argues all the importance of a major customer. It also enables PSA to influence and stimulate design as well as to bring about improvements in technology. In recent years, however, the Agency has been pioneering developments in building and a new approach to interior design which are likely to set new standards and create new fashions in the country as a whole.

Officially, the PSA is the government agency set up within the Department of the Environment to provide and maintain accommodation for Government Departments and to look after all those buildings referred to under the imposing title of the Government Estate. Its responsibilities extend to development work as well as design and procurement. Following a detailed review of the construction industry and the way in which it might develop in the future, The Ministry of Public Building and Works in 1968 decided to embark on a number of studies designed to introduce a measure of rationalisation and standardisation into their building programme but at the same time being careful to avoid too much uniformity or central control. Although the Agency is responsible for a large number of types of buildings, some 35 per cent of spending each year is accounted for by only nine main types: single living accommodation (for the Forces), social buildings (clubs and messes), offices, workshops and laboratories, telephone engineering centres and vehicle workshops, single and two storey automatic telephone exchanges, multi-storey automatic telephone exchanges and postal sorting offices. Even this short list involves using different forms of construction and this very diversity led to a 'method of building' in which flexibility or openness and known levels of quality were the basic characteristics.

Up to 1968 most attempts at rationalisation had been through the development of systems of construction which relied heavily on a steady build-up of demand to make them economic. They could only be used for fairly restricted types of buildings, and the disadvantage was that they lacked flexibility – a kit of parts was only designed mainly to do one particular job. When regular work was not forthcoming, many of these systems ran into financial difficulties. By contrast, the Method of Building which the PSA had developed placed the emphasis on the assembly of various dimensionally co-ordinated components and in this way adopted a more 'open' approach. Under MOB, architects are provided with a number of constructional choices, for instance they can use concrete, steel or brickwork although it is mandatory in the PSA to apply a particular dimensional discipline. Starting with the overal

An artists impression of the new British High Commission in Lagos, designed by architect A. E. A. Wild of the Directorate of Estate Management Overseas, PSA, due for completion next year.



new dimensions in building

floor to ceiling heights and horizontal dimensions, they can choose from a range of preferred sizes. This makes it possible to introduce various components such as doors, partitions, etc., whose sizes and jointing details have been rationalised so they can be put together on site with the minimum of effort.

Up till then it was commonplace to have problems with components; partitions which did not keep out the noise, doors which developed faults, windows which leaked and let in draughts and problems of maintenance. The PSA instead of specifying how the components should be made decided to specify them stating the performance they wanted and then carried out tests to see that the finished products matched these requirements. This meant, in the case of doors, asking for a component that satisfied certain requirements as to strength, resistance to impact, sound transmission, fire resistance and a number of other important functions. Specifying by performance rather than by stating manufacturing requirements has the advantage of giving the manufacturer a choice as to the materials and methods he can use while at the same time guaranteeing that the architect has components of known performance and known cost.

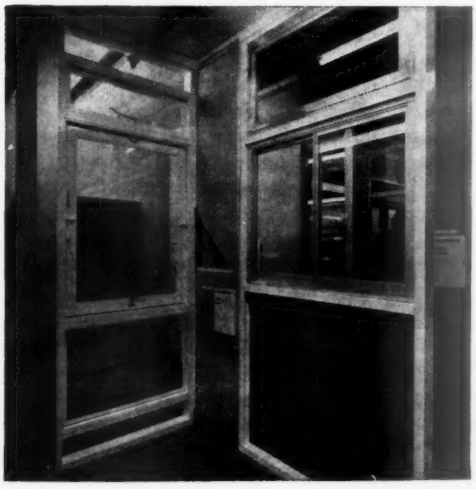
Three years ago the first of these performance specifications were put out to tender. For doors and windows, three or four manufacturers were selected whose components were then tested at the Building Research Establishment and the British Standards Institution testing centre. When the Agency was completely satisfied with the results they were then included in the Method of Building Handbook for use use by PSA designers. Prices are updated every six months and the agreement with manufacturers usually lasts three years.

Unlike the closed systems of earlier years, MOB enables a considerable range of requirements to be met and does not inhibit the freedom of the designer. PSA architects can choose from a variety of building materials, ranges of preferred dimensions as well as components of known performance and cost. Neither is it just a case of using one standard component for every single government building. There are, for example, several grades of windows; at the top end of the scale there is one to withstand the most severe conditions which would only be used in special cases such as the Coastguard Stations. Another example is the stronger than average doors which are available for use in buildings such as soldiers barracks. Making this range of choice available avoids wasting money and materials which would result from using the same product in every conceivable situation. The first building designed and built according to the PSA Method was the Crown Office in Bury St. Edmunds which was completed last year.

By taking the lead in the public sector, PSA has begun to influence the industry as a whole. After the first three years many more firms are now showing an interest in tendering for the second round of performance specifications. At the end of 1973, £$\frac{3}{4}$ million of doors, windows and partitions had been ordered. Twelve months

John Appleton, RIBA, Director of Building Development at PSA.

Components used in the Method of Building (left). A selection of tested components is on permanent display so that designers can make their own selection. (Right) Recruits and junior guardsmen at Alexander Barracks at Pirbright, designed and furnished by PSA.



The new British High Commission at Singapore, designed by architect K. H. Campbell of the Directorate of Estate Management Overseas, PSA, completed in 1973.

PSA

later this figure reached £2.3 million. As MOB gains acceptance designers are becoming more confident, particularly as they find that, in use, the components are performing in the ways that were promised in the specifications. Industry is aware of their concern for faults and firms are quick to react if anything goes wrong. There is also a growing interest in extending the concept of specifying by performance to British Standards. Continuing this policy the PSA is now looking at roofs and cladding as a start of a new and determined policy to improve performance and quality.

At the same time as these new developments in the design and construction of buildings, rationalisation has also been taking place on the inside. The Supplies Division of the PSA is probably the largest single purchaser of furniture, furnishings and other supplies in the United Kingdom. This includes chairs, everything from Louis Quinze to polypropylene, lighting fittings, soap, carpet and fuel and in 1973-4 amounted to a total expenditure of £141 million.

To carry out these purchases efficiently, in a way which will help British industry, the Supplies Division has introduced standardisation and rationalisation into many of the 5,000 different items they buy.

As with the building components, specification is now by performance rather than by product. A few years ago, when buying a capret normal practice would have been to stipulate requirements in terms of weight, yarn, backing threads, dyes and material to be used. Now they spell out a functional specification (in terms of durability) which defines in detail what they want the item to do. This leaves the manufacturer free to use his own initiative and encourages the development of new techniques.

All major purchases now involve a process of product evaluation. In a corridor in Whitehall sections of different carpets are subjected to normal wear and tear while the 'traffic' over the carpet is measured by photoelectric cell. There is much sponsored research, including a major investigation of fire hazards both in furniture and fittings. Supplies Division are working towards 100 per cent flame retardant fabrics and are hoping, in co-operation with the Furniture Manufacturers Association to introduce new standards which should help considerably to prevent fire spreading.

To help rationalise production, in furniture manufacture, PSA have set out to rationalise demand. Fragmentation has been reduced and trivial variations have been eliminated. Designers have now developed a new range of furniture, known as Standard Units, in which the same components can be assembled in many different ways. Matching units are interchangeable and allow considerable diversity. To suit different customers the same units can be obtained either painted or veneered. In domestic furniture a build up of a range of items can be achieved from a small number of very easily made components.

To rationalise demand for textiles, PSA commissioned the textile designer Bernat Klein to design matching patterns for curtains, carpets and upholstery. When moving in to their married quarters, for instance, it should now be possible for tenants to select a Bernat Klein carpet and then choose from a range of curtains and upholstery, from the same chart, all designed

An artists impression of the new Public Records Office at Kew, designed by a PSA architect, due for completion in 1976.

to complement each other. By choosing different permutations, an almost infinite number of variations are possible. This should remove that apocryphal charge against Ministry of Defence generosity; 'you can have any colour you want as long as it's green'.

Although PSA has an approved list of companies, any firm that wants work may write in to the contracts department and ask to be considered. They will then be vetted, to establish financial standing and asked to show accounts, with checks on such factors as the the amount of plant, workshops etc. Productive capacity and quality will then be put on the list. Initially, small contracts will be given but it is possible, over the years, to gradually climb up the financial notations. The size of the firm itself is a limiting factor since PSA would try to avoid awarding a contract that accounted for too great a proportion of a company's output—this would put the firm at risk should the orders be discontinued. This does not mean there is no room for small firms. Work is not only confined to large companies as throughout the country there are always many smaller jobs going on and also a large programme of maintenance, while on the supply side, contracts can be divided between a number of suppliers. Office carpets, to take one example, are at present being made for Property Services Agency by two medium sized companies and one small company.

In the main, building contracts for over £100,000 are handled at headquarters, (below that figure they are dealt with by the regional offices) but any contract worth more than £415,000 must be advertised in the EEC Official Journal, although so far, in the construction industry, foreign competition has not materialised.

The one aspect of PSA's work which does regularly involve foreign firms is the building of British Embassies abroad. At present new buildings are being designed for Brazilia, Warsaw and Helsinki. Not all the materials are strictly British (some are difficult to transport and in other cases, such as cookers for instance the additional cost of long-distance transport can make them uneconomical). Nevertheless, the embassies do try to display a representative selection of good British products such as furniture, glassware and cutlery.

With such diverse programme, the PSA can be seen as a microcosm of the building industry as a whole. It is not surprising therefore that their approach to design and construction has been influenced by changes in the way industry is organised. In recent years the trend has been for more work to be done in the factory rather than on the building site. It therefore seemed sensible for PSA to introduce a degree of rationalisation and standardisation to reduce the one-off approach to design. With solutions such as the Method of Building and Standard Units they have reduced trivial diversity without imposing strict uniformity, neatly avoiding the two extremes. This way of working will make it easier for industry in a number of ways – for instance it will enable manufacturers to introduce longer production runs. But the real success will be measured by the extent to which the ideas are taken up in the open market, and at the present moment it looks as if this influence is likely to be consideraple.

Technology News

Director needed for polymer engineering

The British Plastics Federation, the British Rubber Manufacturers' Association and the Science Research Council are co-operating to develop a £2.5 million university and polytechnic programme of training and research in polymer engineering. This collaboration has the full support of the Department of Industry and the National Research Development Corporation. The aims of the programme are to provide the highly trained engineers which the British polymer engineering industry needs; to generate research programmes in universities and polytechnics in order to establish the base of knowledge on which participating firms can build their own applied research and development programmes; and to ensure that within about five years the training and research projects established in universities and polytechnics have attracted the active collaboration of firms in the polymer engineering industry.

The Federation, the Association and the Council are now seeking a Director for the programme. He will report to a Management Committee consisting of three industrial members, three academic members, and one from the Department of Industry. The Director will probably be based at the Council's Daresbury Laboratory and will have a small highly qualified staff to assist him in the development and running of the programme. He will operate by commissioning work in selected universities and polytechnics. In placing commissions, the Director will expect some contribution from the selected institutions towards the full cost of the work but he will not be bound by the normal SRC rule that institutions receiving grants should themselves provide well-equipped laboratories. The provisional estimate of cost of the scheme is about £2.5 million over five years and the first task of the Director will be to draw up a costed programme of training and research.

At the outset payments made for work commissioned in universities and polytechnics will be financed entirely by the SRC. However, the aim is to establish a programme in which industrial firms and organisations participate fully. One of the tasks of the Director will be to work towards joint funding of the programme within about five years since this will help to secure close co-operation between industry, universities and polytechnics in developing training and research in this important field. NRDC intends to maintain close contact with the programme and hopes that opportunities will arise for it to provide financial support to the universities and to industry.

The Science Research Council issued in February the report of its working party on polymer engineering which recommended increasing substantially the contribution from the academic world to this important industry. The essence of the working party's recommendations was that the SRC should establish a polymer engineering directorate to initiate and oversee a closely co-ordinated programme of postgraduate training in selected universities and polytechnics (to be designated polymer engineering centres), with the active co-operation and involvement of industry. The Engineering Board of the SRC welcomed these aims and set up a task force to prepare proposals for implementing them.

The task force endorsed most of the proposals made by the working party but, after the polymer engineering report, recommended that the directorate should be based in accommodation provided directly by SRC – preferably at Daresbury. They also sought the participation of the two industrial associations concerned and proposed measures to launch the programme in 1975. The Council have now approved the proposals of the task force. The British Plastics Federation have offered to contribute one quarter of the estimated administrative costs of the directorate and the British Rubber Manufacturers' Association are making a donation.

Keeping in touch with aircraft

The Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, have been using a complete L-band aircraft antenna system suitable for airliners using the projected AEROSAT – aircraft/satellite communication system – delivered by British Aircraft Corporation.

It was developed under contract to the Ministry of Defence and completed in time to be installed in one of RAE's Comet 4 aircraft for the AEROSAT system trials. The trials, based on the Azores, are organised by the European Space Research Organisation and began on 20 February. NASA's ATS 6 satellite is being used to assess performance of the L-band system which is of particular significance, since in this geographical area the access angle from the aircraft to the satellite is low, resulting in appreciable noise temperature and accentuating possible multipath problems.

One of the ground floor panels at Camberley, Surrey, awaiting shipment to Lagos for the new British High Commission.

GRP panels used in Lagos High Commission building

PSA Architect Alan Wild had problems to overcome when designing the new British High Commission Offices in Lagos (see photograph on page 346).

This is because Victoria Island, now the centre of diplomatic activity in Nigeria, consists of reclaimed land. The island was largely formed by the dredging of the harbour and creeks, when the sand and silt was pumped on to original areas of mangrove swamp.

Different countries have found varied ways of coping with the poor load bearing ground conditions for their embassies in Nigeria. In the case of the British High Commission, piles were driven deep into the sand to support the central 3-storey block, while the surrounding single-storey offices are supported on surface raft foundations.

Glass fibre reinforced plastics (GRP) panels were chosen for the enclosing walls of the building, not only to reduce weight, but to give a maintenance-free finish of factory-controlled quality, and high thermal insulation.

Firms of specialist GRP manufacturers were visited and their facilities, experience, methods of control, financial standing, and expertise were assessed by PSA before they were invited to tender.

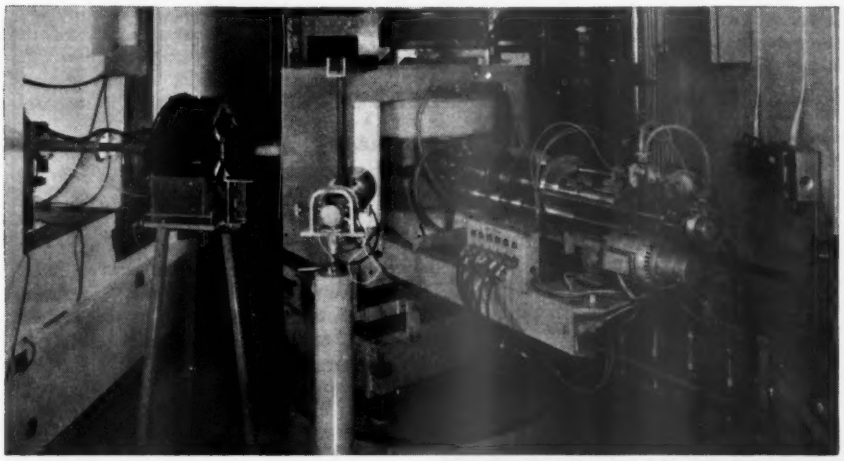
After initial examination, a range of resin systems was evolved and sets of test panels from a number of manufacturers were sent to Lagos for exposure to local environmental conditions. Periodically, samples were returned to the Building Research Establishment for tests and comparison with originals. Six of the eight firms invited submitted tenders and the contract which involved manufacture, packing, and shipment to Lagos, was placed with the lowest tenderer. The panels were produced in Camberley, Surrey by Artech Plastics Engineers Ltd.

Open days at NPL

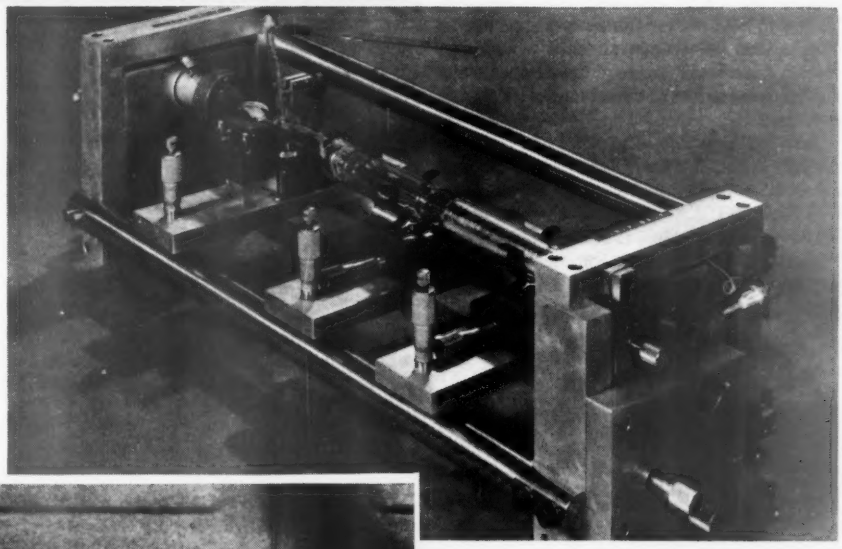
The National measurement system is the dominant theme underlying the wide range of work on display at the National Physical Laboratory Open Days, 20-22 May, demonstrating the role of NPL in providing national standards of measurement which are acceptable both nationally and internationally.

The Laboratory provides traceability to National standards for those in Government, industry and the universities who are concerned with measurement and its development. Additionally it provides traceability and technical support to the British Calibration Service and works closely with the British Standards Institution and other bodies on the preparation of manufacturing and performance standards, codes of practice and safety regulations.

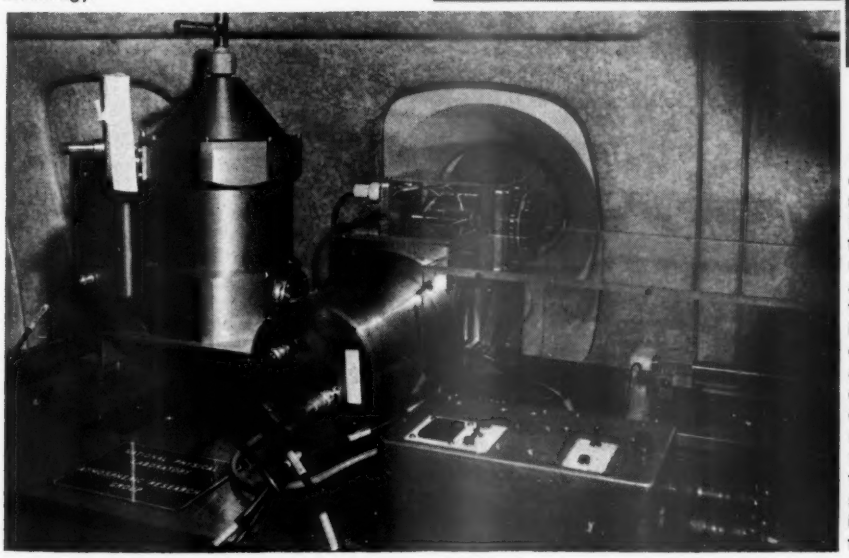
A new deadweight standard machine which defines national standard N & T scales of hardness for the Rockwell Superficial Hardness Test. This test is coming into increasing use in tin-plate and electronics industries. Designed and constructed by NPL's Division of Mechanical and Optical Metrology, it is an example of their work in providing mechanical and optical standards for use nationally.



The electron linear accelerator, recently installed at NPL in a specially designed building, will greatly increase the capability of NPL's Division of Radiation Science to carry out research and development on radiation standards, as well as making it possible to extend the existing calibration services from energies of 2 MeV to 20 MeV. These services are already the foundation for measurements on X-rays and electrons used in the treatment of cancer by radio-therapy in the United Kingdom and many other countries.



(Right) A helium-neon laser being developed as a standard wavelength source at 633 nm., for use in length measurement. This work is carried out by the Division of Quantum Metrology.



(Left) Interferometric equipment in the cabin of Concorde 002, used for sensitive measurement of atmospheric trace gases. NPL's Division of Electrical Science provides the highest quality electrical standards and measurement techniques, including the applications of electro-magnetic waves at frequencies up to about 10 THz. The Division is divided into three groups which cover the derivation of fundamental electrical standards and research on measurement techniques at direct current and low frequencies, establishment of standards and research on measurement techniques at radio and microwave frequencies and research on techniques for generating and handling sub-millimetric (far infrared) waves and investigation of applications of these techniques.

Parliament

Monday, 28 April

Price Commission

Mr. Michael Morris (Northampton South) asked what was the cost of operating the Prices Commission for the most recent 12 months.

'£3.4 million in the financial year 1974/75 on my Rt. Hon. Friend's vote,' said Mr. Maclennan.

Price Code

Questions were asked by Dr. Keith Hampson (Ripon) and Mr. Giles Shaw (Pudsey) on progress made in the consultations between the department and the food industry with regard to amendment of the Price Code.

Mrs. Williams answered: 'Following the statement on the Budget made by my Rt. Hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 16 April, I have circulated to interested parties a consultative document, which is available in the Vote Office, setting out the changes I propose to make to the Price Code. Among other changes, I propose to extend investment relief to commercial vehicles. This measure will, I believe, be of particular benefit to the food manufacturers as well as to distributors. My proposals take account of recent discussions between my Department and representatives of the food manufacturing industry.'

Mrs. Williams was also asked, by Mr. Norman Lamont (Kingston upon Thames), when she next intends to review the Price Code.

'I have no plans for a general review of the Stage 4 Price Code,' she answered. 'I am consulting appropriate representative organisations on the proposals announced in the Budget Statement for amendments to two paragraphs of the Code.'

Unit pricing

Mr. John Cartwright (Greenwich, Woolwich East) and Mr. Clement Freud (Isle of Ely) asked what progress has been made towards the introduction of mandatory unit pricing.

'Following the favourable reception to our initial Price Marking Orders we are pressing on with our plans for extending mandatory unit pricing to other fresh and frozen foods,' said Mr. Maclennan. 'In particular we are holding discussions with the interests concerned on meat, poultry, fish, fruit and vegetables to consider the most suitable methods of so doing. My Rt. Hon. Friend hopes to be able to make a further batch of Orders before the Summer Recess.'

Retail Price Index

Mr. Nick Budgen (Wolverhampton South-West), Sir George Young (Ealing, Acton) and Mr. Peter Rost (South East Derbyshire) asked about increases in the retail price index.

Mrs. Williams answered that the increases in the retail price index over the 12 months to March 1975 was 21.2 per cent. The change over the three months to March 1975, expressed at an annual rate, was 25.6 per cent.

Ministers at the Department of Industry

Secretary of State for Industry: Anthony Wedgwood Benn
Minister of State: Lord Beswick
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Gregor MacKenzie
Michael Meacher

Ministers at the Department of Trade

Secretary of State for Trade: Peter Shore
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Eric Deakins
Stanley Clinton Davis

Ministers at the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection: Shirley Williams
Minister of State: Alan Williams
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Robert Maclennan

Food subsidies

Mr. Ian Gow (Eastbourne) asked for an estimate of the total cost of food subsidies for the financial year ending 5 April 1976.

'About £550 million,' answered Mrs. Williams.

Food prices

Mr. Nicholas Ridley (Cirencester and Tewkesbury) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, 'What has been the change, in the last three months, in the price of imported foodstuffs and what has been the change in the same period in the retail price of food in British shops?'

Mr. Maclennan answered: 'Between December 1974 and March 1975 the unit value of imported food and feedingstuffs rose by 7 per cent. Over the same period the Retail Food Index rose by 10.1 per cent.'

Mr. Teddy Taylor (Glasgow, Cathcart) asked what has been the average increase in retail food prices since October 1974.

Mr. Williams replied: 'Between 15 October 1974 and 18 March 1975 the Food Index rose by 14.1 per cent.'

What would be the estimated effect on the average family's weekly food bill of Great Britain leaving the EEC, asked Mr. Tim Renton (Mid-Sussex) and Mr. Peter Morrison (City of Chester).

'Membership of the Community is at present having no significant effect on food prices overall,' said Mrs. Williams.

Firework safety

Mr. James Johnson (Kingston-upon-Hull West) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, when she hopes to make public the consultative document concerning fireworks.

Mr. Williams replied: 'Copies of the consultative document on firework safety have today been sent to all the bodies whom we know to be interested. They have been invited to submit views to my Department on any aspect of the sale and use of fireworks and the possible need for altering or extending the existing controls. Copies of the document have been placed in the libraries of both Houses of Parliament and are also available on request to any other bodies or persons who may wish to comment.'

Fuel prices

Mr. Dennis Canavan (West Stirlingshire) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, whether she is satisfied with the powers of her department in controlling the pricing of fuel.

'Yes,' said Mr. Williams. 'The Price Code applies to the production and sale of fuel both in the public and private sectors. While we have no direct powers to control the price of fuel the Government has asked the gas and electricity industry to restructure tariffs in favour of the smaller consumer and phase in increases with social security and pension upratings.'

Protection for caravan owners

Mr. Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Heeley) asked if the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection would seek powers to protect non-residential caravan owners from being trapped into forced sales by site owners demanding the removal of a caravan from a site on spurious or unreasonable grounds.

Mr. Williams replied: 'I am considering with my Rt. Hon. Friends the Secretaries of State for Environment and Trade and with

the Director General of Fair Trading how holiday caravan owners might be protected against the imposition by site operators of inequitable terms.'

Garages

Mr. Ioan Evans (Aberdare) asked about representations to the Office of Fair Trading regarding their discussions with garages on a code of practice, following publication of evidence relating to malpractices in the trade.

Mr. Williams replied: 'I asked the Director General in August 1974 to take account, in his discussions with the motor industry on a code of practice, of the Automobile Association's findings that a high proportion of new cars are handed over to purchasers by motor dealers without adequate pre-delivery inspection.'

Trade Descriptions Act

Mr. Tim Sainsbury (Hove) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, when the review of the Trades Descriptions Act is expected to be completed.

Mr. Williams answered: 'The interdepartmental Committee which is reviewing the working of the Trade Descriptions Act 1968, under the chairmanship of the Director General of Fair Trading, will shortly publish a consultative document. The Committee's report, which will take account of the comments received from a wide range of industry, trade and consumer bodies, is expected by the end of this year.'

Prime Minister's visit to Moscow

Mr. John Biggs-Davison (Epping Forest) asked for a statement on the developing and financing of trade with the USSR since the Prime Minister's last visit to Moscow.

Mr. Deakins replied: 'The Secretary of State will be leading the UK Delegation to Moscow in May for a meeting of the Anglo/Soviet Joint Commission. This will follow up, among other matters, the important programmes of economic co-operation and the credit agreement recently concluded by my Rt. Hon. Friend the Prime Minister, which have increased the opportunities for our exports to the USSR.'

Secretary of State for Trade's visit to Gulf States

Mr. Jonathan Aitken (Thanet East) asked the Secretary of State for Trade for a statement on his recent visit to the Gulf States.

Mr. Deakins said: 'The Secretary of State visited Bahrain, Qatar and the UAE from 2-9 April and had discussions with senior Ministers and businessmen there. There are considerable trade opportunities in the area but we are concerned that British firms should take full advantage of their traditional position and in particular pay close attention to their delivery performance.'

Health and Safety at Work Act

Mr. Greville Janner (Leicester West) asked if regulations would be introduced to require director's reports to contain information concerning health and safety at work, in accordance with Section 79 of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974.

Mr. Clinton Davis answered that it would be for the Secretary of State for Trade to make any necessary regulations implementing Section 79 of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 on the advice of the Health and and Safety Commission. Mr. Clinton Davis went on: 'Faced with other priorities, I understand the Commission is not yet ready to initiate the wide consultations on this issue with interested organisations which are a statutory prerequisite to its making recommendations to the Secretary of State. I cannot say when these recommendations may be expected although I understand that the Commission is conducting its business as expeditiously as possible.'

Pseudo-Scottish names for knitwear

Mr. David Steel (Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade would give a direction to commercial attachés in all embassies to oppose attempts to register pseudo-Scottish names by local knitwear manufacturers; and, in particular, if he would oppose the registration of the knitwear manufacturing name Hunter of Scotland, in South Africa.

Mr. Deakins answered: 'Commercial Officers overseas have standing instructions to watch cases of unfair competition of this kind. However in many countries it is a legal requirement that representations must be made locally through legal channels by the overseas companies who consider their interests have been affected. As regards South Africa, the Scottish Knitwear industry has sought my Department's advice about making representations. We are in touch with the Embassy and will shortly provide further advice.'

Nation Life

Mr. Robert Taylor (Croydon North West) asked for the latest estimate of the gross assets of Nation Life.

Mr. Clinton Davis said: 'The officers of the company are required to submit a Statement of Affairs under Section 235 of the Companies Act 1948 which shall include an estimate of the gross assets. The estimate which has been provided in this case shows gross assets exceeding £25½ million.'

Oil pollution

Mr. Kevin McNamara (Kingston upon Hull Central) asked: 'When the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage 1969 will enter into force; what legislation will implement it; what will be the effect; and what is the current position regarding the International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage 1971?'

Mr. Clinton Davis replied: 'The International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage, 1969, in which the United Kingdom and some 13 other states are participating at present, will enter into force on 19 June 1975. Orders and Statutory Instruments required to apply various provisions of the Merchant Shipping (Oil Pollution) Act 1971 (as amended by Section 9 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1974) which implements the Convention will be made shortly. The Act (some Sections of which, under Statutory Instrument 1971 No. 1423 (C.36), are already in force, ie some provisions as to liability and certain other matters) provides for a substantial improvement in the position of claimants for oil pollution damage from an identifiable tanker carrying a cargo of persistent oil in bulk because liability is strict and not based on fault, and because the limits of the shipowner's liability are increased, and because tankers (carrying more than 2,000 tons of persistent oil) have to be insured and to carry a certificate to that effect. But the limits of liability in the International Convention relating to the Limitation of the Liability of Owners of Seagoing Ships 1957 will continue to apply to ships registered in countries which are parties to that Convention and are not parties to the 1969 Convention. Regulations relating to certificates for compulsory insurance will be laid shortly.

'The position on the International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage, 1971 is that while the Government is strongly in favour of this Convention, and indeed Part I of the Merchant Shipping Act 1974 enables us to ratify it (which we will do soon), only two countries have so far participated in it. Our latest information suggests that some time will elapse before a sufficient number of major oil importing states will participate to bring it into force.'

Export trends

'What is the latest trend in British exports?' asked Mr. Peter Morrison (City of Chester).

Mr. Deakins answered that in the first quarter of 1975 the volume of exports recovered from its fall in the fourth quarter of 1974 to reach the level attained in the third quarter of the year.

Nationalisation

Mr. Robert Kilroy-Silk (Ormskirk) asked the Secretary of State for Industry to list those companies taken out of public ownership under the previous Government; which of them have been taken back into public ownership; which he intends should be taken back into public ownership; and why he does not intend to seek to take back into public ownership the remaining companies.

'I am replying in respect of companies in those industries for which this Department is responsible,' said Mr. Meacher. 'The British Steel Corporation transferred the following assets to the private sector during the period of office of the last Conservative Admfnistration:

Transport Development Group Ltd.*
Steetley Company Ltd.*
Tube Investments Ltd.*
Rylands Whitecross and Dorman Long Wiremaking Works †
Openshaw and Holme Lane Works
Thurcroft Brickworks
Belton, Crowle, Bilsthorpe and Campbell Brickworks
Brymbo Steelworks‡
Firth Vickers Stainless Steel Ltd. §
River Don drop forge plant§

* BSC sold only part of their shareholding in these companies.

† BSC maintain an interest in these concerns.

‡ As part of this deal BSC acquired GKN Dowlais Ltd.

§ As part of this deal BSC acquired certain plant and facilities for stainless steel flat products.

'None of these has been taken back into public ownership. It has been made clear to the nationalised industries for which the Secretary of State for Industry has responsibility that we will consider sympathetically proposals for their expansion and diversification, and this could of course include re-purchase of assets previously hived off where this would most appropriately advance the general strategy of those industries.'

Employment in the steel industry

Questions regarding employment in the steel industry were put by Mr. Roy Hughes (Newport): Mr. John Mendelson (Penistone): and Mr. John Robertson (Paisley).

Mr. Meacher answered: 'The Government are deeply concerned about reports that the British Steel Corporation are contemplating drastic cuts in manpower of up to 20,000 workers over the next few months. The Corporation have commenced talks with the unions about possible reductions in manpower as a result of the present low level of demand for steel, and have kept my officials informed. My Rt. Hon. Friend the Secretary of State and my Rt. Hon. and Noble Friend the Minister of State will be discussing the position with the Chairman of the Corporation today.'

Bristol Channel Ship Repairers Ltd.

Mr. Stephen Ross (Isle of Wight) asked the Secretary of State for Industry 'Why he will not receive a deputation from the directors of Bristol Channel Ship Repairers Ltd.?'

Mr. Meacher answered: 'My Rt. Hon. and Noble Friend the Minister of State for Industry met the chairman and managing director of Bristol Channel Ship Repairers Ltd. together with shop steward and management representatives on 11 March to explain the Government's proposals for public ownership of the shiprepair industry. I do not consider that any useful purpose would be served by a further meeting with directors of the company.'

Industry in Scotland

Mrs. Winifred Ewing (Moray and Nairn) asked if the Secretary of State for Industry is satisfied with the state of industry in Scotland.

Mr. MacKenzie answered: 'We are aware that much needs to be done to stimulate industrial development in areas of high unemployment such as Scotland and our regional industrial policies give high priority to this. When the Scottish Development Agency, the National Enterprise Board and the Planning Agreements system come into operation, we shall be able to do even more. In addition, my Rt. Hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in his Budget Speech on 15 April that special schemes are to be introduced to encourage firms to bring forward some categories of investment and to help certain industries with modernisation plans.'

Industrial development in Wales

Mr. Nicholas Edwards (Pembroke) asked how many Government factories in Wales are at present vacant.

Mr. MacKenzie said: 'Twenty-three units are at present vacant, but of these 13 have been provisionally allocated to would-be tenants.'

Mr. Edwards also asked about the number of Government factories presently under construction or planned in Wales; and of these, the number already allocated.

'Twenty-four units each under 5,000 sq. ft. (465 sq. m.) and 40 of larger sizes,' said Mr. MacKenzie. 'Five of the smaller and 14 of the larger are under allocation.'

Mr. Edwards wanted to know the total number of official visits by firms from outside Wales seeking industrial locations in Wales in each year since 1971 and in the first quarter of 1975, and the total number of official inquiries recorded from firms outside Wales for industrial locations in Wales during the same period.

Mr. MacKenzie answered that visits and inquiries recorded by the Department of Industry from firms outside Wales for locations in the principality were:

	First visits	Inquiries
1971	99	257
1972	160	427
1973	282	855
1974	200	635
1975 (first quarter)	36	87

Airships

Mr. Michael Shersby (Hillingdon, Uxbridge) inquired about Government policy towards the development of airships.

Mr. Meacher answered: 'The various ideas on airships are in an exploratory stage and do not yet provide a reliable basis for future policy. My Department will continue to maintain close contact with developments in this field.'

Plastic waste

Mr. Michael Morris (Northampton South) asked if any investigations have been carried out into the conversion of waste plastic back into the oil from which it originated.

Mr. Meacher said: 'The Department of Industry's Warren Spring Laboratory is working on the pyrolysis of mixed waste, including plastics, to produce fuel products, viz gas, oil and char.'

Tuesday, 29 April

The Patent Office

Mr. Keith Stainton (Sudbury and Woodbridge) asked the Secretary of State for Trade: 'What are the principal factors to which he attributes his estimate of a trebling in the deficit of the Patent Office on its fee-bearing services in the financial year 1974-75 over the calendar year 1973 and the latest year for which final figures are available?'

Mr. Shore answered: 'Costs increased generally between calendar year 1973 and financial year 1974/75 the main components being salaries up by 35 per cent and accommodation up by 24 per cent. Income rose by only 5 per cent.

'The figures for 1974 will be published in the Comptroller-General's Report to Parliament at the end of May 1975.'

Mr. Stainton also wanted to know the annual rate of deficit for the fee-bearing services of the Patent Office; the estimated annual rate of surplus at which those services will be running, assuming constant rates of business, when present fee increase proposals are fully effective; when the monthly cost of the fee-bearing services of the Patent Office is expected to come into balance with the monthly receipts of the fees payable for those services, as currently proposed to be increased; and what monthly rate of surplus is expected to prevail subsequently; what proposals there are for countermanding wholly or in part present proposals for Patent Office fee increases when the currently recoverable deficit on the fee-bearing services of the Patent Office has been recouped; and what are the estimated rates of reduction in the completion of patent applications in the granting of patents, and in the annual renewal of granted patents which will flow from present proposals for a 90 per cent increase in Patent Office fees.

Mr. Shore said: 'The current annual rate of deficit is approximately £5 million. Assuming a constant rate of business the 90 per cent increase in fees would result in a surplus of £1 million in a full year. However, the full monthly yield will not be achieved until June and the increase will be operative for only 10 months of the current financial year.

'Moreover, experience indicates that some fall in business is inevitable. There are no adequate data on which to base a firm estimate but we calculate that if business were to fall by 10 per cent there would be a deficit for the financial year of £1.5 million.

'I therefore have no proposals for countermanding wholly or in part the increased fees; the position will be kept under review should the recoverable deficit be recouped.'

Mr. Stainton also asked: 'What are the statutory authority and the reasons for requiring that the Patent Office shall operate as regard fees under constraints similar to those applied to nationalised industries under paragraph 98 of the Price Code?'

Mr. Clinton Davis said: 'The Crown is not bound by the Counter Inflation Act 1973 but the rules laid down in the Price Code were applied to the Patent Office which is a large fee-earning organisation.'

Publications on tourism

Mrs Winifred Ewing asked what sums are provided from public resources towards the expenses of Tourism in England*; and what sum is contributed towards public resources for any similar journal for the Scottish Tourist Board.*

Mr. Deakins answered: 'Such expenditure is met out of the grants-in-aid made to the two National Tourist Boards concerned. They themselves decide annually how much shall be allocated to particular publications within their approved overall allocation to publicity. In the last financial year the English Tourist Board spent about £18,000 on *Tourism in England* and the Scottish Tourist Board chose to contribute about £8.900 towards two publications – the independent *Scotland's Magazine* and their own *Visit Scotland*.'

Industrial development in Wales

Mr. Nicholas Edwards asked how many applications from Wales for selective assistance under the Industry Act were (a) received and (b) granted during 1973 and 1974; and how much was disbursed as a result.

Mr. MacKenzie gave the following information:

	Applications received for projects in Wales	Offers made		Payments
	No.	No.	Value (£000)	Value (£000)
1972/73	113	18	1,530	—
1973/74	254	123	13,451	4,747
1974/75	222	145	10,603	7,447

Mr. Edwards also asked how many new jobs were provided by Government premises including advance factories in 1974.

'Over 200 persons (170 males) are currently employed in Government premises, including advance factories, that were allocated in Wales in 1974.' said Mr. MacKenzie. 'When these projects are fully manned the occupiers estimate that 1,000 persons (700 males) will be employed.'

Mr. Edwards then asked how many new jobs were created in Wales in 1973-74 and 1974-75 through projects assisted under the Local Employment Acts and the Industry Act; and what was the average cost per job.

Mr. MacKenzie answered: 'The numbers of new jobs estimated to arise from projects in Wales on which assistance has been offered under the Local Employment Acts and Section 7 of the Industry Act are as follows. In calculating the average cost per job under Section 7 of the Industry Act the equivalent notional loan value has been used where interest relief grants were offered.

	No. of jobs	Average cost per job £
1973-74		
Local Employment Acts	5,095	1,867
Industry Act	10,970	2,382
1974-75		
Local Employment Acts	6,949	2,336
Industry Act	12,221	2,613

'Employment is also being created through payments of Regional Development Grant under Part I of the Industry Act.'

World export prices

Mr. David Knox (Leek) asked for a table showing, on the assumption that the first quarter of 1974 is 100; what would be the index number for commodities traded internationally in each of the quarters from 1964 to the latest available date.

Mr. Deakins gave the following tables derived from the index numbers of world export prices, published by the Statistical Office of the United Nations in terms of the US dollar. For convenience, the figures are given in terms of sterling.

INDEX NUMBERS OF WORLD EXPORT PRICES (PRIMARY COMMODITIES AND NON-FERROUS BASE METALS)

A In terms of US dollars — 1974 1st quarter = 100

	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.
1964	37	36	36	36
1965	36	37	36	37
1966	38	38	38	37
1967	36	36	36	36
1968	36	36	35	36
1969	37	38	38	38
1970	39	39	39	39
1971	40	41	41	41
1972	44	45	46	48
1973	54	61	70	78
1974	100	102	101	102
1975	*102* (1)			

B In terms of sterling — 1974 1st quarter = 100

	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.
1964	30	29	29	29
1965	29	30	29	30
1966	31	31	31	30
1967	29	29	29	31
1968	34	34	33	34
1969	35	36	36	36
1970	37	37	37	37
1971	38	39	38	37
1972	39	40	43	47
1973	51	55	64	74
1974	100	97	98	100
1975	*97* (1)			

(1) Projections based on information collected by Department of Industry.
Source:
Statistical Office of the United Nations.

Direct investment

Information was asked for by Mr. Guy Barnett (Greenwich) on the value of direct investment by British companies in countries other than the UK who are, or were, members of the EEC for 1971, 1972, 1973, and 1974, respectively; in which industrial sectors such investment took place for each year; and the value of the investment for each sector; and the value of direct investment by EEC countries in the UK for the same years; what were the industrial sectors in which this investment took place, in each year; and the value of the investment in each sector.

Mr. Deakins said that the latest information available relates to the years 1971 to 1973 and gave the tables below.

UK NET DIRECT INVESTMENT (1) IN THE EEC (2) — £ million

	1971	1972	1973
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	0.2	0.7	1.3
Mining and quarrying	—	−0.1	0.4
Mechanical engineering and instrument engineering	9.2 (3)	23.8	17.8
Electrical engineering		6.7	16.3
Shipbuilding and vehicles (excluding motors)	14.1 (3)	−0.5	0.3
Motor vehicle manufacture		8.3	12.6
Food, drink and tobacco		33.9	103.6
Chemical and allied industries		16.4	82.8
Metal manufacture		0.3	−4.8
Textiles, leather, clothing and footwear	148.1 (3)	3.8	7.0
Paper, printing and publishing		3.1	9.0
Rubber		−0.2	−2.5
Other manufacture		12.4	29.9
Construction	0.3	4.4	2.6
Transport and communications other than shipping	1.9	7.3	6.6
Shipping	1.6	0.1	0.7
Distributive trades	39.8	75.1	82.1
Other financial institutions	−2.9	0.4	5.2
Property owning and managing	50.2 (3)	−7.8	−7.3
Other activities		34.9	155.3
Total	262.5 (4)	223.3 (4)	519.3 (4)

(1) Excluding oil.
(2) The original six member states in 1971 and 1972; the other eight member states in 1973.
(3) Figures for industries bracketed together were not compiled separately for 1971.
(4) Components do not necessarily add to totals because each figure has been rounded independently.
— Nil or less than £50,000.

EEC (1) NET DIRECT INVESTMENT (2) IN THE UK — £ million

	1971	1972	1973
Food, drink and tobacco	1.0	4.0	6.5
Chemical and allied industries	13.9	9.2	3.9
Metal manufacture	−2.1	5.7	5.1
Mechanical engineering and instrument engineering	−5.6	0.9	−1.5
Electrical engineering	15.4	−1.4	−2.6
Motor vehicle manufacture	−6.2	−1.1	—
Textiles, leather, clothing and footwear	3.5	−1.4	3.4
Paper, printing and publishing	0.1	0.6	14.8
Rubber	−1.5	−0.7	−0.8
Other manufacture	6.1	0.4	−1.4
Distribution	2.1	4.7	22.5
Other activities	8.3	16.4	55.7
Total	35.1 (3)	37.3 (3)	105.5 (3)

(1) The original six member states in 1971 and 1972; the other eight member states in 1973.
(2) Excluding oil and insurance.
(3) Components do not necessarily add to totals because each figure has been rounded independently.
— Nil or less than £50,000.

Production of steel and motor vehicles

Mr Peter Horden (Horsham and Crawley) asked for figures showing how much steel is produced and how many motor vehicles are produced, in the latest convenient year, in the UK, USA, France, West Germany and Japan.

Mr. Meacher gave the following details for 1974:

	Production of crude steel	Production of motor vehicles	
		Cars	Commercial vehicles
	Mn. tonnes	Units	Units
UK	22.4	1,534,119	402,566
USA	132.0	7,324,504	2,746,538
France	27.0	3,045,283	417,565
West Germany	53.2	2,839,596	260,181
Japan	117.1	3,931,842	2,619,998

'Preliminary figures of overseas steel production were compiled by the International Iron and Steel Institute and published in *World Steel in Figures*,' he said. 'Figures of motor vehicle production are published in the *Monthly Statistical Review* issued by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, copies of which are available in the Library.'

Waste paper

Mr. Bryan Gould (Southampton, Test) asked what progress has been made towards the establishment of buffer stocks of wastepaper.

'The Advisory Group on Waste Paper Recycling expects to make its recommenda-

tions about such a scheme in June,' said Mr. Meacher.

Mrs. Ewing asked what quantities of waste paper have been imported in the last two years from (a) the USA, (b) Belgium, (c) Luxembourg, (d) the Netherlands, and (e) the USSR; and about proposals to reduce the quantity in future.

Mr. Shore gave the following information:

Metric tons

	1973	1974
a USA	0	40,760
b Belgium	2,786	26,143
c Luxembourg	0	
d Netherlands	8,574	13,586
e USSR	2,213	11,629

'The answer to the second part is no,' said Mr. Shore. 'This increase in imports was due largely to temporary factors which no longer operate. The level of imports, which was in any case only marginal, has now declined significantly.'

Petroleum and Submarine Pipelines Bill

Mr. T. H. H. Skeet (Bedford) asked if the Secretary of State for Energy is prepared to permit machinery for an appeal to an independent tribunal in any case where compliance with his directives will substantially add to the costs of a licence holder.

Mr. Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Energy, said: 'Arbitration has not been available in respect of matters directed by the Secretary of State under the terms of any Petroleum Production licence granted since 1964. The Petroleum and Submarine Pipelines Bill proposes no change in this position.'

Mr. Skeet also asked if the Secretary of State for Energy proposes to pay existing licensees compensation for requiring them to subscribe to terms and conditions under Part 2 of the Petroleum and Submarine Pipelines Bill which were not contractual terms under their original agreements.

'There is no provision for compensation in the Bill but in exercising the powers proposed in Part II I shall take into account the likely effect on licensees,' said Mr. Varley.

Mr. Skeet also asked: 'Why is it provided under Clause 10(1) that in the statement of accounts of the BNOC the Corporation will not be required to either profit or loss?'

Mr. Varley said: 'Clause 10(1) of the Petroleum and Submarine Pipelines Bill does provide for the British National Oil Corporation's accounts to show profit and loss. Clause 10(2) provides that where consolidated accounts for BNOC and its subsidiaries are presented, they need not show the profit and loss of the Corporation separately from its subsidiaries. The latter provision is parallel to the provision in Section 149 of the 1948 Companies Act.'

Nuclear energy programme

Mr. Gwynfor Evans (Carmarthen) stated that in the 10 years between 1965 and 1975 the contribution made by nuclear energy to the energy requirements of the United Kingdom had nearly doubled from 2.0 per cent to about 4.0 per cent, and wanted to know what the net energy profit made during that decade by the nuclear energy programme; and the Secretary of State for Energy's assessment of the net energy profit that will be made by 1985.

Mr. Alex Eadie, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade, Department of Energy, said: 'The net energy profit made by the nuclear energy programme during the decade beginning in 1965, measured as the net saving in primary energy obtained by building and operating nuclear instead of fossil-fired power stations, was approximately 85 million tons of coal equivalent. The corresponding saving in the decade beginning in 1975 is currently estimated to be substantially higher.'

Wednesday, 30 April

Monopolies Commission report on newspaper transfers

Mr. David Young (Bolton East) asked if the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection had received the report of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission on the proposed transfer of the newspapers owned by G. and A. N. Scott Ltd. to the Guardian and Manchester Evening News Ltd.

Mr. William's reply is published on page 341.

Confidential commercial information

Mr. John Stanley (Tonbridge and Malling) asked the Secretary of State for Industry: 'Whether all officials in his department who have sight of confidential commercial information are bound by the Official Secrets Act; and whether a prosecution under that legislation can be made in the event of a leak of confidential commercial information by a member of his department?'

'All my officials are bound by the Official Secrets Act,' answered Mr. Benn. 'Prosecution for an offence under the Act would be a matter for the Director of Public Prosecutions with the consent of the Attorney General.'

Mr. Stanley also asked the Secretary of State for Industry what measures are being taken by his department to protect the confidentiality of confidential commercial information.

Mr. Benn replied that all departments under all Governments have had long experience of safeguarding confidential commercial information.

Imports from EEC

Mr. John Loveridge (Havering, Upminster) wanted to know the percentage of the United Kingdom's imports from the European Economic Community which was attributable to food imports in 1974, 1973, 1972, 1971 and 1970; and how these were divided by categories of goods imported.

Mr. Deakins answered that for the eight countries now comprising the EEC these percentages were 19, 18, 19, 21 and 22 per cent, respectively. The value of imports of food by main categories were as follows:

IMPORTS FROM THE EEC (8)

£ million, OTS basis

SITC		1974	1973	1972	1971	1970
00	Live animals	71	72	69	70	55
01	Meat and meat preparations	398	307	228	221	202
02	Dairy products and eggs	280	146	108	99	75
03	Fish	28	27	18	15	13
04	Cereals and cereal preparations	315	154	60	57	53
05	Fruit and vegetables	153	119	94	79	76
06	Sugar, sugar preparations and honey	80	14	7	6	8
07	Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices and manufactures thereof	66	40	25	21	20
08	Feeding stuffs for animals	45	45	28	24	19
09	Miscellaneous food preparations	50	29	18	15	11
0	Food and live animals	1,487	954	653	606	532

Reference to Price Commission of food prices

Mr. Cledwyn Hughes (Anglesey) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection to announce the terms of her reference to the Price Commission of food prices in outlying areas of the country.

Mrs. William's reply is published on page 340.

Engineering industries

Mr. Peter Horden (Horsham and Crawley) asked for details of the net contribution per head to the balance of trade in 1974 of all those employed in the engineering sector, and all those employed in the insurance, banking, finance and business services.

Mr. Deakins answered: 'Exports of the engineering sector less the direct and indirect imports required to produce them are estimated provisionally to have averaged £2,200 per head in 1974. It is regretted that comparable estimates cannot be provided for the services sector mentioned since invisible exports and imports are not comprehensively classified by industrial sectors to correspond with the employment statistics, nor is a suitable input/output analysis available for assessing net contributions.'

Insurance control

Mr. Douglas Hurd (Mid-Oxen) asked at what level the UK was represented at the 74th meeting of the insurance control services of the EEC on 25 February in Berlin; how the seniority of the UK representatives compared with those of other countries; and for an assurance that at future meetings the UK representatives would be sufficiently senior to take a full part in the proceedings.

'UK representation at any international conference is arranged at the most appropriate level,' said Mr. Clinton Davis. 'At the Berlin meeting the UK delegation was led by the Principal concerned who played a full and effective part in the proceedings. Exact comparisons are impossible but other countries' practice seems to be much the same as our own.'

Tea and rubber workers in Sri Lanka

Mr. John Golding (Newcastle under Lyme) asked what further representations have been received concerning the condition of tea and rubber workers in Sri Lanka.

Mr. Deakins answered: 'We have received a substantial number of letters commenting on recent television programmes about conditions on tea estates in Sri Lanka. We are also studying a report on these conditions prepared by members of the Inter Parliamentary Union Delegation which visited Sri Lanka earlier this month.'

Copper prices

Mr. Skeet (Bedford) asked if the Government are prepared to support the RTZ proposals designed to stabilise the price of copper; and whether any

representations have been received from CIPEC (Council of Copper Exporting Countries) on the need for inter-governmental co-operation in commodity price stabilisation.

Mr. Meacher answered: 'I understand that RTZ has proposed that an international financial consortium be organised to take over Japan's copper surplus and thus remove if from sale at current prices. For its part, as my Rt. Hon. Friend the Prime Minister has already made clear, the British Government are ready to pursue discussions on means of stabilising commodity prices and supplies, including copper, in the joint interests of producers and consumers. CIPEC had made no formal representations to the Government on means to achieve commodity price stabilisation.'

IDC control

Mr. Jonathan Aitken (Thanet East) asked if the Secretary of State for Industry had any plans to change the location regulations for granting industrial development certificates to allow more industrial development to be carried out in areas of southern England where there is high unemployment.

'The Department's attitude to the IDC control was set out in an article published in *Trade and Industry* on 13 February 1975,' said Mr. MacKenzie. 'As that article makes clear, a sympathetic view is taken of projects in keeping with the needs of localities which have special unemployment problems, but subject always to consideration of the extent to which the projects are mobile.'

Industrial development in Wales

Mr. Edwards (Pembroke) asked how many Government factories were allocated in Wales to tenants and purchasers in each year since 1971; what was the total area involved in each year; how many jobs were provided; and what is the target for 1975.

Mr. MacKenzie gave the following information:

Year	No. of factories	Area (sq. ft.)	No. employed
1971	9	309,000	800
1972	15	455,100	1,100
1973	17	393,100	900
1974	12	294,000	200

Mr. MacKenzie continued: 'For 1975 four factories (61,000 sq. ft.) have already been allocated. 166,800 sq. ft. of space remains available and it is expected that 260,000 sq. ft. of advance factory space will be completed. It is hoped that as much of this as possible will be allocated in 1975. Recruitment is continuing at a number of factories and additional jobs will arise for some time to come.'

Mr. Wyn Roberts (Conway) inquired about the number of persons in Wales employed in units of fewer than 25 employees, between 25 and 50 employees, between 50 and 100, between 100 and 200, between 200 and 500, and in units of more than 500 employees; and the proportion of the total working population employed in each category.

Mr. MacKenzie answered that information on employment in manufacturing industry by size groups of units employing more than 10 persons, and by country and standard region of the United Kingdom is published in Business Monitor PA 1003 'Analysis of United Kingdom manufacturing (local) units by employment size, 1972'.

The information is not available by the precise employment size ranges requested neither is it available for industries not classified as manufacturing.

The proportions employed in the various size groups quoted in the Business Monitor in Wales were:

Employment size group	Percent
11- 19	2.1
20- 24	1.8
25- 99	10.5
100-199	10.2
200-499	21.0
500-999	14.3
1,000 and over	40.1
Total	100.0

'For the United Kingdom as a whole employees in units employing 10 or fewer persons were estimated to have amounted to 3.4 per cent of those employed in units of 11 or more; thus to 3.3 per cent of all employees in manufacturing units of all sizes,' said Mr. MacKenzie.

North Sea oil

Mr. Dennis Canavan (West Stirlingshire) asked the Secretary of State for Energy, whether the assurance announced on 19 December 1974 has resulted, as hoped, in the uninterrupted development of the Thistle Field in the North Sea.

Mr. Varley replied: 'The assurance given by the Government has resulted in the licensees of Block 211/18 (the Halibut Group) led by Burmah Oil Development Ltd. as operator proceeding as planned with the development of the Thistle Field.

'In the present international economic climate, Tricentrol North Sea Ltd., who have an 8.4 per cent interest in the field, have not been able to make provision for project finance for their share of development cost of the Thistle Field, as had been hoped.

'My Department has been having discussions with Tricentrol, who have informed the Department that the company will be able to make the necessary arrangements for finance should a certain formal guarantee be given.

'Subject to the obtaining of any necessary Parliamentary authority, a guarantee will be given as follows:

'The Government will, subject to certain conditions, guarantee the repayment of advances up to a maximum sum of £38.3 million (including interest) made by banks to the company for defraying the company's share of the cost of development of the Thistle Field. As consideration for this guarantee, the Government will be paid an amount to be expressed as a royalty on the well head value of oil over the life of the field. The minimum royalty payable will be 5 per cent, with the option to take this in oil. The term of the guarantee will depend on the date when the field comes into full production. It will not be later than 31 December 1980. After the conclusion of a 51 per cent participation agreement, the Government may, subject to a full review of the position, and having particular regard to the continuing viability of the field, change the ceiling for a guarantee in respect of the company's residual 49 per cent interest to £25.02 million being the appropriate proportion of £51.1 million (including interest) advanced by the Banks to Tricentrol North Sea Ltd. in connection with the Thistle Field. If the Government is called upon to implement its guarantee, the benefit of the banks' securities would be transferred to the Government, but the Government would allow Tricentrol to retain a residual working interest related to its actual exploration and development expenditure in connection with the Thistle Field in Block 211/18.

'This guarantee relates only to advances by banks and interest accrued thereon in respect of the 8.4 per cent interest of Tricentrol North Sea Ltd. in the Thistle commercial Field in the North Sea.

'In recognition of the Government's giving the guarantee mentioned above, Tricentrol North Sea Ltd. have agreed in writing that they will grant 51 per cent participation in their interest in the Thistle Field for value to the Government on terms and conditions presently being negotiated, the agreement to be concluded as soon as possible. Among the terms and conditions being negotiated would be provisions to safeguard the position of lending banks.

'The arrangements described above extinguish the Government's contingent liability in respect of Tricentrol North Sea Ltd. under the assurance given on 19 December 1974 (*Hansard* Vol. 883, No. 42, Cols. 572-73).'

Offshore oil platforms

Mr. Andrew Welsh (South Angus) asked: 'How many platforms may fail to reach the standard required by Offshore Installation (Construction and Survey) Regulations; of these how many are in (a) the Scottish and (b) the English sector of the North Sea; and what action HM Govermnent proposes to take to avoid the dangers to safety and personnel and the risk of well blow outs which might follow from non-observance of the regulations?'

Mr. John Smith, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Energy, replied: 'From 31 August 1975 all platforms will require a Certificate of Fitness. In Scottish jurisdiction waters all fixed platforms have been built with knowledge of the standards of the Offshore Installation (Construction and Survey) Regulations and no certification problems are expected. Some 20 existing fixed platforms in English jurisdiction waters were built before the regulations had been published. The Certifying Authorities are completing their surveys of these platforms. Modifications to the structures may be required or constraints on their continued use imposed in their certification.

'No problems are anticipated over the certification of mobile installations of recent construction. The 11 older mobile installations will be subject to the same consideration as the existing fixed platforms mentioned above.

'All production wells on platforms are equipped with automatic subsurface safety valves to prevent blow-outs. The presence of these valves and the periodic checks carried out on their effectiveness are verified by the Department.

'Blow-out control on drilling operations is affected by two means. Approval of the drilling programme has to be obtained from my Rt. Hon. Friend and adherence to it is monitored by the Department. Also the Department verifies that blow-out preventor drills and equipment checks are regularly carried out.'

Parliament continued

Thursday, 1 May

Post Office

Mr. Michael Heseltine (Henley) asked for an estimate of the profit or loss of the Post Office for the current year.

Mr. MacKenzie answered: 'The forecast underlying my Rt. Hon. Friend's Budget Speech was a deficit of £70 million at current prices. But the Chairman of the Post Office informed me last week that this figure is now likely to be higher and I have asked him for further information. I will, of course, keep the House informed.'

Pollution at sea

Mr. John H. Cordle (Bournemouth East) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade could announce a date for the introduction of legislation to implement the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from ships; and, if not, if he would detail each of the various steps in the process of necessary consultation with interested parties regarding the implementation of the convention which his department has taken since 1 January 1975.

Mr. Shore replied: 'I am not yet able to announce a date for the introduction of legislation to implement the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, and I regret that I do not expect to be able to do so in the near future. As explained in previous replies to the Hon. Member, the application of the Convention's provisions poses a number of problems which do not offer quick or easy solutions.

'Since 1 January 1975 work has continued on these problems. In particular the Department has been associated with work which has continued in Government and industry on the development of monitoring and control equipment to cover the full range of oils as defined in the Convention. It is also in discussion with industry on the problems involved in the provision of reception facilities. As a result it expects to contribute to discussions on these topics at the next Session of IMCO's Marine Environment Protection Committee to be held from 23 to 27 June next where it also hopes to learn of the ways in which other countries are dealing with them.'

Friday, 2 May

Imported Chinese woven grey cotton cloth

Mr. Harold McCusker (Armagh) wanted to know the total quota of imported Chinese woven cotton grey cloth for UK retention after payment of duty for the home market.

'There is no separate quota for this item, but imports count against a quota which also covers yarns and other cotton and man-made fibre fabrics from China,' said Mr. Deakins. 'This wider quota has been set at 3,690,000 sq. m. in 1975.'

Mr. McClusker also asked the Secretary of State for Trade to explain the allocation of the quota of imported Chinese woven cotton grey cloth to individual manufacturers; and what procedure if any there is for reviewing an individual's allocation.

Mr. Deakins said: 'The demand for allocations from the quota which includes woven cotton grey cloth exceeds the quota limit. In these circumstances the normal practice is to make allocations to existing traders on the basis of their past trade and to make provision for limited allocations to newcomers from time to time.'

Hosiery and knitwear imports

Mr. Adam Butler (Bosworth) asked the Secretary of State for Trade to set up a committee to examine the impact of low cost imports on the hosiery and knitwear industry and to make recommendations as a matter of urgency.

'No,' said Mr. Deakins. 'The Government is in close contact with representatives of the hosiery and knitwear industry and is already considering the whole question of low cost textile imports in response to the proposals made by the British Textile Confederation.'

Membership of National Consumer Council

Mr. Mike Thomas (Newcastle upon Tyne East) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection to announce the names of the members of the National Consumer Council.

Mrs. Williams said:

'As already announced, Mr. Michael Young is the Chairman of the Council. The following have agreed to be members of the Council:

Mrs. Hylda Armstrong
Mr. Michael Barnes
Mrs. Ann Davis
Mrs. June Evans, OBE
Miss Sylvia Gray, MBE
Mr. Christopher Holmes
Mr. Joe Kenyon
Mrs. Beata Lipman
Mrs. Joan Macintosh
Mrs. Chrissie Maher
Mrs. Dorrette McAuslan
Mrs. Sara Morrison
The Baroness Phillips
Mrs. Maureen Richardson
Mrs. Evelyn Smith
Mrs. Cynthia Stein
Mrs. Rachel Waterhouse
Mr. Max Wood

The Scottish Consumer Council will be chaired by Mrs. Macintosh and the Welsh Consumer Council by Mrs. Lipman.'

Public expenditure

Mr. Robert Woof (Blaydon) asked the Secretary of State for Trade to list the projects affected by the Chancellor's statement of public expenditure retrenchment announced on 15 April, falling on his Vote, and to indicate the total savings expected for the current and prospective year.

Mr. Clinton Davis said: 'The share of the £900 million savings, at 1974 Survey prices, in 1976/77 borne by Department of Trade programmes will be £1.4 million. Of this total £1.0 million will fall on the provision by local authorities for development of municipal aerodromes and will form part of the share of the savings to be found from local authority capital expenditure as a whole. The remaining £0.4 million will be found from increases in the fees charged by the Companies Registration Office and Patent Office beyond the levels assumed in Cmnd. 5879.'

UK trade (non-oil)

Mr. John Loveridge (Havering, Upminster) asked for the percentage figures for the United Kingdom non-oil trade for each of the years 1965 to 1974 for all countries, EEC (8), EFTA, Commonwealth, Japan, USA and the rest of the world.

Mr. Deakins gave the following percentages:

Glamorgan (Rhoose) Airport

Mr. Dafydd Wigley (Caernarvon) asked for information about central government financial aid for Glamorgan (Rhoose) Airport.

Mr. Clinton Davis answered: 'Glamorgan Airport can be considered for Government financial assistance under Section 12 of the Civil Aviation Act 1968. The long-standing criteria, which are strictly applied, include whether the aerodrome is one of the limited number indispensable to the national air transport system; and whether the cost of running it is greater than the local community can be reasonably expected to bear. My Rt. Hon. Friend, in consultation with the Secretary of State for Wales, is considering the case made by the Airport Joint Committee, to which the Wales TUC and the Welsh Office of the CBI have contributed. This has been supported by the Welsh Council, the Welsh Counties Committee and other Welsh interests. He will make a statement about it as soon as possible.'

Imports of carcase meat

Mr. John Biffen (Oswestry) asked for figures showing the value and volume of carcase meat imports from the individual countries comprising the EEC for 1975 to date; and for a comparison with the corresponding figures for 1974.

Mr. Deakins gave the following latest available information:

	January-March 1975		January-March 1974	
	£'000 cif	Tons	£'000 cif	Tons
Federal Republic of Germany	3,214	6,529	749	1,896
Netherlands	6,293	7,510	2,569	3,071
Belgium and Luxembourg	532	1,147	202	488
France	2,132	4,984	1,683	3,483
Italy	84	33	82	36
Denmark	46,791	67,860	42,047	65,264
Irish Republic	23,566	33,340	15,575	23,883

Note: Carcase meat has been defined as fresh, chilled, frozen, dried, salted or smoked meat, whether or not in airtight containers (SITC(R) Groups 011 and 012).

	EEC (8)	EFTA	Common-wealth (1)	Japan	USA	Rest of world	All countries
Imports							
1965	24.5	11.6	30.7	1.5	12.8	18.9	100.0
1966	25.9	12.0	28.1	1.4	13.3	19.3	100.0
1967	27.3	12.7	26.2	1.6	13.4	18.8	100.0
1968	27.0	13.1	24.6	1.6	14.9	18.8	100.0
1969	26.7	13.5	24.0	1.4	15.0	19.4	100.0
1970	27.9	13.9	24.6	1.7	14.3	17.6	100.0
1971	31.6	14.5	22.8	2.3	12.5	16.3	100.0
1972	33.3	16.0	20.1	3.2	11.6	15.8	100.0
1973	34.8	16.6	18.2	3.1	11.3	16.0	100.0
1974	37.8	15.9	16.1	3.1	11.9	15.2	100.0
Exports							
1965	26.0	11.0	26.6	1.1	10.7	24.6	100.0
1966	25.9	11.4	24.1	1.3	12.6	24.7	100.0
1967	26.3	11.7	22.8	1.7	12.4	25.1	100.0
1968	26.7	10.9	21.4	1.6	14.3	25.1	100.0
1969	27.8	11.7	20.7	1.8	12.5	25.5	100.0
1970	28.8	12.7	20.1	1.9	11.8	24.7	100.0
1971	28.4	12.2	21.0	1.7	12.0	24.7	100.0
1972	29.7	13.4	18.8	1.8	12.6	23.7	100.0
1973	31.8	13.5	17.0	2.2	12.4	23.1	100.0
1974	32.2	13.0	17.0	2.0	11.0	24.8	100.0

Notes:
(1) Commonwealth figures exclude Bangladesh prior to 1973.
(2) The percentages relate to total trade less oil defined as SITC(R) Division 33.
(3) Area definitions on a 1974 basis.

Nation Life

Mr. Robert Taylor (Croydon North West) asked if advice was given to the board of Nation Life by officials of the Department of Trade that Nation Life would be covered by Section 48(2) of the Insurance Companies Act 1973 in the event of its collapse.

Mr. Clinton Davis answered: 'My officials advised the directors that S.31(2) of the 1973 Act would require the Liquidator, unless the Court ordered otherwise, to carry on the long-term business of the company with a view to its being transferred as a going concern to another company, if possible; in fact, the provisions of the 1948 Act were still in force, and they permit the Liquidator to act in this way if the Court so agrees. In the case of Nation Life, since the Liquidator did get the Court's direction to act in that way, the practical outcome has been the same.

'I regret that wrong advice should have been given; but fortunately, as I have explained, the error has had no material effect on the actual course of events. The Liquidator has the power to carry on the business for the time being with the sanction of the Court, and the Court has directed him to do so.'

Trade with Finland

Mr. Michael Shersby (Hillingdon, Uxbridge) asked about steps being taken to improve trade with Finland.

Mr. Deakins stated: 'Last November my Rt. Hon. Friend received an important trade mission of senior Finnish industrialists and officials in London. The resulting trade opportunities continue to be followed up by the official services. In January this year he visited Helsinki. The development of trade was one of the subjects he discussed there with Finnish Ministers. The services normally provided by the British Overseas Trade Board and my Department are well used by British exporters to Finland, and our exports have expanded satisfactorily over recent years. We would expect this to continue but the scope in the immediate future is limited by Finland's balance of payments problems and by the import deposit scheme which the Finnish Government has consequently been obliged to introduce.'

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be addressed to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 437, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, and *not* to HMSO.

Industrial investment

Mr. Woof asked for the Secretary of State for Industry's forecast of the level of industrial investment in the current financial year.

Mr. Meacher replied: 'No forecast is available for the financial year. For the calendar year 1975 the results of the industrial investment intentions inquiry carried out by my Department were published by Press Notice and in *Trade and Industry* for 30 January 1975. Further information will be available when the results of the next investment intentions inquiry are published by press notice on 9 June.'

Government Sales

Ministry of Defence

14 May 1975 Miscellaneous Stores

Location: Hilltop Motor Hotel, London Road, Carlisle

Auctioneers: Harrison and Hetherington Ltd. (Dept. L), Borderway Mart, Rosehill, Carlisle CA1 2RS (tel. 0228 26292)

110 vehicles including Morris ambulances, Morris, Ford and Austin saloons, Morris 1000 vans, Bedford tippers and Scammell trailers. Sanding grinding, banding and roller bending machines. Lathe tools, spanners, chisels, hammers, pliers and drills. Various electrical items including Waveform generators, junction boxes, frequency meters, receivers, power units, transformers, modulators, voltmeters, test sets, capacitors, switches, plugs and electronic valves. Watches, clocks, gyro units, air mileage units, oscilloscopes, lenses. Service clothing, boots and shoes, textiles, web equipment, oxygen regulators, photographic equipment, office furniture, hose assemblies, telephone equipment, steel and aluminium tubing, bars and sheets, wooden boxes, paint and a large collection of other stores.

Catalogues for the above sale, which give details of the lots, conditions of sale, viewing times, etc., are available from the auctioneers from two weeks before and up to the day of the sale, price 10p (postal orders only).

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Exhibitions and Fairs

£85m goods shown at Frankfurt world skin salon

From R. Weatherburn, British Vice Consul, Frankfurt: The International Frankfurt Fur Fair, reputed to be the most important event of its kind, took place from 23-27 April. During the five days of the fair, a total of 465 exhibitors from 26 countries showed a stunning range of furs, skins, fur garments, accessories and a wide range of fur processing machinery.

Compared with other international fairs held in Frankfurt, the annual Fur Fair is, in overall size, small. Only two of the eight halls are used for it but total exhibition space occupied is no measure of its importance and at no other fair is merchandise of such a high intrinsic value compressed into such a relatively small area. The value of goods on display was said to be over £85 million.

According to the fair organisers, almost 19,000 trade visitors were recorded, representing an increase of some 4.5 per cent over last year. Of these – and this is a good indication of the truly international character of the fair – nearly 6,600 were foreign.

Slightly more than one-third of the exhibitors (157) were from outside Germany. British firms, 37 in all, comprised the largest non-German contingent, followed by Italy with 15 firms, France with 14, Holland with 12, Canada with 11 and Sweden and Israel each with 10. All but nine of the British participants were grouped in a joint venture sponsored by the British Overseas Trade Board in conjunction with the British Fur Trade Association. The group's stands which included the magnificent Hudson's Bay and Annings stand (a replica of the entrance to Beaver House in London), were attractively designed and certainly amongst the best at the fair.

Long haired garments and garments combining leather in some form with fur were still immensely popular. Red fox trotter length jackets and coats of dyed Swakara with silver fox collars in matching colours were amongst the more expensive hits of the show, while at the cheaper end of the trade, garments of rabbit fur proved to be very much in demand. Exhibitors of plates and shells all did well. Mole skins seemed to be increasing in popularity and attracted a lot of attention from Italian buyers. Indeed, there was something for everyone and exhibitors were generally pleased with results.

This time there was a noticeable absence of buyers from the United States, but exhibitors reported seeing and doing business with buyers from France, Japan, Italy, Switzerland, Holland, Austria, Spain, the Scandinavian countries and the United Kingdom. It was also encouraging to find that the interest shown by West German buyers in British garments is increasing.

With one or two minor exceptions, British exhibitors – many had arrived in Frankfurt fearing the worst – went away feeling greatly encouraged. The next event in this series of fairs will take place in Frankfurt from 7-11 April 1976.

UK's largest single export promotion event in the United States this year

The largest single British export promotion in the USA this year started on Monday when 60 British companies – double last year's number – opened in a joint venture display at the seventh Offshore Technology Conference and Exposition in Houston. All the companies are being supported by the British Overseas Trade Board in conjunction with the Association of British Oceanic Industries.

The British participants are exhibiting a wide variety of products associated with the offshore industry, including dredging machinery, welding equipment, gas turbines and diving bell recovering systems.

The new products on display include a device that homogenises residual fuel oils for use in diesel engines or boilers with consequential considerable economies. Another new product is a new heave compensator which is capable of supporting the heaviest drill string in current commercial offshore use.

Concurrent with the conference, 5-8 May, there is a symposium in which 10 speakers from the United Kingdom are taking part.

To coincide with the conference, the BOTB is supporting, in association with ABOI and the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, two outward missions to Houston.

Agricultural plant display in Zaragoza

From R. W. Burr, Commercial Department, British Embassy, Madrid: In Zaragoza, the fifth city in Spain (population 600,000), the Ninth International Agricultural Machinery Show was held 4-13 April. For the first time, Great Britain had official representation in the form of an information stand manned by members of the Embassy and Consulates.

The aim of the stand was threefold: to disseminate information about British machinery, livestock, seeds, etcetera; to receive and act on inquiries; to assess the viability of a larger stand next year. As there is no British consular or cultural representation in Zaragoza, tourist, travel and educative literature was also made available.

The show attracted nearly 300,000, mostly agriculturalists (actual or in training), officials and veterinary surgeons from all over Spain, as well as trade missions from many other countries.

That serious interest for British goods and technology exists was evident from about 100 serious inquiries (from a total of eight countries) received on the stand. Most interest was shown in livestock (cattle, pigs, rabbits, even bees), seeds, sophisticated machinery like harvesters, seeders, forage harvesting equipment, bale-handling methods and irrigation systems.

Until two years ago, the show exhibited only machinery but now has an increasingly important sector for livestock handling and the conference which is held at the same time was on this theme this year. It is clear that the Zaragoza show, while as yet small, is both the shop window for the entire Spanish market and attracts considerable attention from other countries.

Export Business

Major construction contract for Ghana irrigation project

Taylor Woodrow International Ltd. has been awarded a contract valued at approximately £6.4 million by the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Ghana, for the construction of the Tono Irrigation Project covering some 6,000 acres bordering the river Tono near the town of Navrongo in the upper region of Ghana.

The project will comprise an earth fill dam and irrigation network together with associated drainage and roads, and will enable the existing farming of rice, maize and other crops to be intensified.

The dam, to be built on the Tono river, will have a crest length of nearly two miles (10,000 ft.) and a maximum height of 55 ft. It will comprise some 1.5 million cu. yd. of earth fill, together with 4,000 cu. yd. of concrete for spillway and take-off structure.

The land to be irrigated lies on the left bank of the river, downstream from the dam, and consists of a high area and a low area.

The low area will be gravity fed from the dam by a main canal and consists of paddy and furrow irrigation. The higher area, to be furrow irrigated only, will be fed by two pumping stations lifting water from the low level main canal into two high area canals.

A protective dyke is to be constructed along the left bank of the river to prevent flooding of the low area, and natural watercourses will be improved to form the main drainage for that part of the scheme.

Some 25 miles of compacted laterite roads are to be constructed along the main canals. Work began in April with completion scheduled for the end of 1978.

BOTB contributes to export success

As a result of an export opportunity initiated by the Consulate-General in Dusseldorf, Precision Presswork Group Ltd. of Halesowen has secured an export order worth £350,000 per annum. A German firm which manufactures and supplies complete interior display fittings for dispensing chemists sought the assistance of the Consulate-General in locating a suitable British supplier for a range of drawer units.

With the assistance of the European Components Service of the British Overseas Trade Board, a selection of British firms was approached with this opportunity and Precision Presswork responded immediately.

The outcome of negotiations between the German firm and Precision Presswork was a contract to supply the complete range of display drawer units on a continuing basis.

This success story is doubly rewarding: it provides an opportunity for the British firm to enter into the direct export business in a substantial way; manufacture of the drawer units will be undertaken in a new 10,000 sq. ft. factory at the Vastre Industrial site in Newtown, Mid-Wales.

Hydraulic excavator digs into Surinam

Hymac Ltd., part of the Powell Duffryn Group, is introducing its hydraulic excavators to Surinam. Hymac's new distributor in that country, Maduro International NV of Paramaribo, has placed an initial order worth more than £60,000 for four 580C hydraulic crawler excavators.

The 580C, weighing nearly 12 tons and with a digging depth of just over 21 ft., will be used on irrigation work in the Surinam rice industry. For this purpose the machines have been ordered with special wide undercarriages and 54 in. wide swamp pads for the crawler tracks to reduce the ground bearing pressure in the swampy rice paddy fields.

The first excavator is due to be dispatched from the Rhymney, South Wales, works in a few weeks' time.

Custard powder for Dubai

Glenville Ltd., Greenwich-based food manufacturing company, has announced the receipt of its largest single export order. The £43,200 order consisting of a 9,000-case consignment of Glenville products has recently been received from its Dubai agent.

The bulk of the order is made up of custard powder which makes Dubai Glenville's biggest export market for this product.

Process instruments for Hong Kong plant

A further series of orders valued at £80,000 for process instrumentation to go into the Ap Lei Chau oil-fired power station in Hong Kong has been won by Kent Instruments Ltd. of Luton through contractor Mitsubishi Corporation.

Kent Instruments reports that it has been actively involved in the development of Ap Lei Chau and this latest order brings the total value of equipment it has supplied to the Hong Kong power station to £300,000 over the past five years.

Dane manufacturer orders Moon models

A Danish manufacturer of silencers, beer barrels and gas bottles has placed a repeat order for a machine manufactured by Moon Brothers Ltd. of Birkenhead.

Kosan Cylindric A/S of Middlefart has ordered a model 4SZ silencer seamer with tooling to produce round and oval section silencers. The company already operates a model IM heavy duty edge rolling machine used with a model SH body former, a model XF flanger and a model 4SZ.

Lengths between 7⅛ in. and 36 in. can be handled in diameters or diagonals up to 10½ in.

Athletic equipment in Venezuela deal

Manufacturer of athletic equipment Cantabrian Ltd., of Cambridge, has secured an export order from the Government of Venezuela. The order, worth in excess of £50,000, is for Cantabrian's specialised track and field equipment and was won in the face of keen international competition.

Saudi Arabian polyclinics

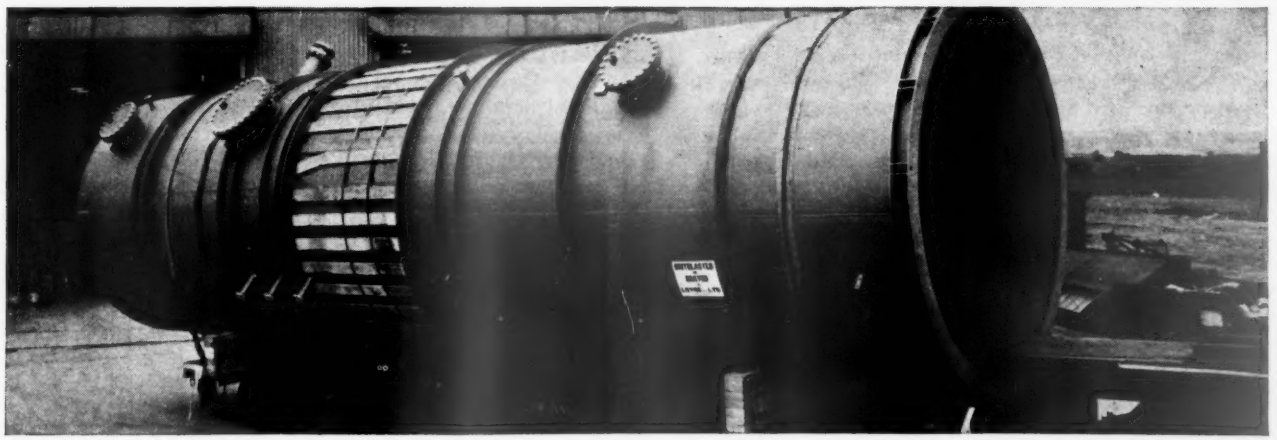
An export order for £40,000 worth of surgical instruments has been secured by Medisco Equipment Ltd. of Windsor. The instruments are part of a 'turnkey' contract to equip 100 polyclinics in Saudi Arabia and are being supplied via Ibis Medical Ltd., the main contractor.

Orders in the pipe line

ABOVE: Plain-ended vitrified clay pipes and fittings forming part of Hepworth Iron Company's HepSleve system of underground drainage being packed for export at one of its Midlands manufacturing plants. Hepworth reports that it is opening up new markets in many countries and is particularly active in the Middle East. One large order there, worth £350,000, is for the supply of 150 mm. to 450 mm. diameter pipes in the HepSleve and HepSeal systems for the Qatif Main Drainage project.

RIGHT: Pipe extruded from 'Propathene' ICI's polypropylene, by Paragon Plastics Ltd., Doncaster, has been supplied to Empresa Nacional de Mineria, Chile, for installation in a new copper mill. It represents a £34,000 share of a £6 million contract awarded to the main contractors, Head Wrightson Process Engineering Ltd. of Thornaby-on-Tees, ICI reports. Pipes from 1 in. to 12 in. diameter, mostly in 6 m. (19.68 ft.) lengths, together with injection moulded elbows, T-junctions and flanges, have been supplied. Among the many advantages of 'Propathene' for pipework over conventional materials, it is claimed, are its light weight, which simplifies handling and assembly on the site, and its resistance to damage before pipework is installed.

BELOW: One of a number of 48 ft. seawater deaerator columns, each weighing 28 tons, manufactured by Hick Hargreaves and Co. Ltd. of Bolton and gritblasted and coated by Loyne Ltd., anti-corrosion engineer of Ashton-Under-Lyne, for an offshore development project in Abu Dhabi.



Trade Information

Bulgarian business visits to Britain envisaged

The third meeting of the Anglo-Bulgarian Joint Commission, recently held in London (see *Trade and Industry*, 25 April, page 224, and 2 May, page 309) recognised that to achieve continued substantial increase in trade and co-operation, it was important that an increasing number of firms new to the Bulgarian market should become involved. To this end it is hoped, with the co-operation of the Bulgarian authorities, to take advantage of visits to the UK by Bulgarian businessmen to enable them to meet a larger range of British companies.

The Commission acknowledged the continued help given towards the expansion of Anglo-Bulgarian trade by the work of the chambers of commerce and industry in the two countries and of the Confederation of British Industry and the East European Trade Council in the UK. It took particular note of the Bulgarian Economic Day held in London in early April by the Bulgarian and London Chambers of Commerce (which preceded a visit to the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce). The Westminster Chamber of Commerce mission to Bulgaria in April was also welcomed, particularly as the mission was comprised very largely of representatives of British firms new to the Bulgarian market.

The East European Trade Council will be preparing a report on the Joint Commission discussions, copies of which may be obtained from the Executive Secretary, East European Trade Council, 21 Tothill Street, London SW1 (tel. 01-930 6711).

Lord Beswick meets Ivory Coast Minister

Lord Beswick, Minister of State, Department of Industry, gave a luncheon on 2 May in honour of M Kone Bangali, Ivory Coast Secretary of State for Posts and Telecommunications. M Bangali was visiting the UK at the invitation of Plessey Communications Systems Ltd., following the recent trade mission to the Ivory Coast led by the Earl of Lindsey and Abingdon.

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The last few years have also witnessed considerable technological changes. These include the increasing transport of freight by air, and perhaps even more important, the container revolution and the development of the combined transport concept. All these have begun to exert influence on traditional patterns of trade and on the customary trade terms—in fact on the accepted rules which have governed c.i.f. and f.o.b. law for so long. These developments are considered by the author, and account is taken of the efforts of the International Chamber of Commerce to prepare definitions of new forms of c.i.f. and f.o.b. for use in contracts involving these modern modes of transport, although these terms are, of course, not complete.

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Notices to Importers

Issued by the Department of Trade, Import Licensing Branch, Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3DB.

No. 1491 Import arrangements for restricted textiles after March 1975

As explained in Notice to Importers No. 1474, published in *Trade and Industry* on 9 January 1975, the levels of cotton and polyester cotton imports during the first calendar quarter of 1975 were set at 25 per cent of the 1974 quota levels pending the outcome of EEC negotiations with supplying countries under the GATT Multifibre Arrangement. As negotiations with the major supplying countries are not yet completed, the following arrangements will apply during the periods specified (*note: the arrangements for import surveillance of textiles set out in NTI No. 1484* (*see* Trade and Industry *of 28 March*) *will not be affected*):

State Trading Countries (see Eastern Area)

The 1975 quota levels were set out in Notice to Importers No. 1489 published in *Trade and Industry* on 25 April 1975.

Countries on which the EEC is seeking to negotiate restraints under the GATT Multifibre Arrangement

These are Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Mexico, Pakistan, Macao, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand and Yugoslavia. The 1974 UK import licensing arrangements for these countries were extended unchanged until 31 March 1975 and will now be further extended until 30 September 1975 (or until the completion of EEC negotiations, if earlier). This means that the quotas for the period 1 January 1975 to 30 September 1975 are now set at 75 per cent of the final 1974 levels. In the case of India agreement has been reached (but not ratified by the Council of Ministers) on arrangements effective from 1 January 1975. A further Notice about this will be issued shortly.

Taiwan

The quota for Taiwan textiles will continue to be administered by the UK pending the completion of Community measures. For the period 1 April 1975 to 30 September 1975, 25 per cent of the 1974 quota level will be allocated amongst UK traders. Priority will be given to the existing licence holders but applications will be considered from traders who have not previously received an allocation.

No guarantee can be given that it will be possible to meet requirements in full or that importers can be granted the same allocation as they have received previously. Applicants are advised not to enter into firm commitments before they have received notification of their allocation.

Applications on Form ILB/A should be made to Import Licensing Branch and, in the case of existing licence holders under this quota, should be accompanied by a statement in the form below:

'I/We declare that the quantities of textiles originating in Taiwan, whether or not consigned direct from that country, which were cleared through United Kingdom Customs by me/us acting on my/our/own behalf or by a clearing agent on my/our behalf were as stated below:

1 January 1975-31 March 1975
(square yards)

Date.....

Signed .....

Status .....

(owner, partner, company director or secretary)

Other restricted sources

Some of the Countries listed below will be affected by the provisions of the EEC-ACP (Africa, Commonwealth, Pacific) Convention of Lome, and by the provisions relating to the Community's (Part IV) associated countries and territories; a further Notice about these particular arrangements will be issued in due course.

a the quota levels of imports of woven cotton textiles during the period 1 April 1975 to 31 March 1976 for the following countries are set out below:

Bangladesh 1,030,920 sq. yds.
Belize 88,348 sq. yds.
Ghana 535,300 sq. yds.
Gibraltar 430,434 sq. yds.
Iran 11,478 sq. yds.
Jamaica 1,409,647 sq. yds.
Kenya 46,207 sq. yds.
Kuwait 13,059 sq. yds.
Nigeria 71,165 sq. yds.
Senegal 11,478 sq. yds.
South Africa 979, 095 sq. yds.
Sri Lanka 215,380 sq. yds.
Surinam 33,287 sq. yds.
Syria 21,120 sq. yds.
Trinidad and Tobago 48,207 sq. yds.
Uganda 125,593 sq. yds.

Each of these countries will administer its own quota. Traders wishing to import woven cotton textiles from any of these sources should advise their suppliers to obtain an export certificate for each consignment from the appropriate Authority in the supplying country. Such certificates will be forwarded by the appropriate Authority direct to Import Licensing Branch of the Department of Trade who will issue import licences within the appropriate quota limits. Traders should not make application to Import Licensing Branch. Import Licences will be issued only if an export certificate is received in the Import Licensing Branch direct from the Government concerned or its Agency. Import licences will not be issued if export certificates are incorrectly completed or are unsigned.

b For all other countries subject to restriction, country quotas of 10,706 sq. yds. of woven cotton textiles have been established for the period 1 April 1975 to 31 March 1976.

These quotas are administered by the United Kingdom and traders who wish to import from these countries should submit licence applications on form ILB/A to import Licensing Branch, together with evidence of a firm order (which should be made subject to the eventual issue of an import licence) eg copies of order documents or letters exchanged with suppliers. No assurance can be given that licences will be issued in response to particular applications. Licences will be valid only for imports from a specified country. The countries concerned are :

Afghanistan
Algeria
Angola
Anguilla
Antigua
Argentine

Bahamas
Bahrain
Barbados
Bermuda
Bhutan
Bolivia
Botswana
Burma
Burundi

Cameroon
Cape Verdi Islands
Central African Republic
Chad
Chile
Congo
Costa Rica
Comorro Island

Dahomey
Dominica
Dominican Republic
Dubai

Ecuador
Equatorial Guinea
El Salvador
Ethiopia

Falkland Islands
Faroes Island
Fiji
French Pacific Possession
French Territory of Afars and Issas
French West Indies
French Guiana

Gabon
Gambia
Greenland
Guatemala
Guyana

Haiti
Honduras

Indonesia
Iraq
Ivory Coast

Jordan

Khmer Republic

Laos
Lesotho
Liberia
Libya

Madeira
Malagasy Republic
Mali
Mauritania
Mauritius
Malawi
Mozambique
Muscat

Nauru
Nepal
New Guinea
Netherlands Antilles
Nicaragua
Niger

Panama
Paraguay
Phillipines
Peru
Puerto Rico

Qatar

Saudi Arabia
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Somalia
South Yemen
Sudan
Swaziland

Tanzania
Togo
Turks and Caicos Islands

Uganda
United Arab Emirates
Uruguay
Upper Volta

Venezuela
Vietnam
Virgin Islands

Western Samoa
Windward Islands (West Indies Associated States)

Yemen

Zaire
Zambia

Inquiries : Import Licensing Branch, tel. 01-215 5638.

Import duty on carrots

The Treasury has made the Import Duties (Temporary Reductions and Exemptions) (No. 6) Order 1975.

This Order provides for exemption from duty in the case of carrots (Tariff Heading 07.01 G II a) when imported from member States of the European Economic Community up to and including 30 June 1975. The Order came into effect on 5 May 1975 and is published as Statutory Instrument 1975 No. 730.

Suspension of anti-dumping duty on zirconium dioxide

The Department of Trade, after reviewing the current market situation, has made an Order suspending for a further period of 12 months the anti-dumping duty on imports of zirconium dioxide originating in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The duty was imposed from 8 August 1970 by the Anti-Dumping Duty (No 2) Order 1970.

The new Order, the Anti-Dumping Duty (Temporary Suspension) (No 3) Order 1975 (S.I. 1975 No 701) comes into operation on 24 May 1975. Before the end of the period of suspension the situation will be re-examined.

Copies of the Order will be obtainable from HMSO, 49 High Holborn, WC1 (price 4p) or by post from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1 (price 11p).

ECGD News

Electric power equipment for Mexico

The Export Credits Department has guaranteed a £2 million loan which Lazard Brothers and Co. Ltd., acting on behalf of The Royal Bank of Scotland Ltd., has arranged with Comision Federal de Electricidad (CFE), Mexico.

The loan will help finance three contracts which have been awarded to Parsons Peebles Ltd., of Edinburgh, by CFE, consisting of the supply of four transformers for the Salamanca power station, 11 transformers for the Puebla II, Tamascat II and Santa Ana II power stations, and four transformers for the Laguna Verde nuclear power station.

Commissioning of all the goods is scheduled for completion by the end of 1975.

This brings the total amount of loans to CFE guaranteed by ECGD over the last 12 months to £9 million.

Extension to Polish synthetic leather plant

The Export Credits Guarantee Department has guaranteed a £1.67 million loan which Lloyds Bank Ltd. has made available to Bank Handlowy w Warszawie SA, Poland, to help finance an extension to a synthetic leather plant at Pionki near Warsaw.

The contract for the design, supply of equipment and supervision of services was awarded to Petrocarbon Developments Ltd., Manchester, by Polimex-Cekop, one of the Polish foreign trade enterprises.

Commissioning of the extension is scheduled for the summer of 1977.

Tariff and Trade Notices

Norway

Prohibition on advertising of alcohol. Regulations have been introduced in Norway prohibiting, from 1 April 1975, the advertising of liquor, wines, fruit wines, mead and beer with an alcohol content of more than 2.5 per cent by volume. British exporters may obtain an unofficial translation of the regulations from OTAR ext. 458/459.

Spain

Cheese and curd: customs tariff modifications. The Spanish *State Gazette*, 2 April 1975, published modifications to the sub-headings of tariff heading 04.04 of the Spanish Customs Tariff. Modifications are mainly in the cif value by weight in the standard portions or slices. The modified text reads as follows:

Tariff no.	Description	Duty
04.04	Cheese:	
A	Emmenthal, guryere, sbrinz, Bergkase, and appenzell:	
1	With a minimum dry-weight fat content of 45% and a minimum maturity of three months, complying with the conditions of Chapter Note 1 and additional Note 6	
a	In standard 'wheel' form and with a cif value of:	
1	14,225 pesetas per 100 kg. nett weight or more, but less than 15,784 pesetas per 100 kg. nett weight, per 100 kg. nett	4,000 pesetas
2	From 15,784 pesetas per 100 kg. nett weight or more, per 100 kg. nett	3,315 pesetas
b	Packed in vacuum or in inset gas showing at least the heel rind, weighing more than 1 kg., with a cif value of:	
1	15,380 pesetas or more per 100 kg. nett weight and less than 16,974 per 100 kg. nett weight, per 100 kg. nett	4,106 pesetas
2	From 16,974 pesetas per 100 kg. nett weight or more, per 100 kg. nett	3,225 pesetas
c	Packed in vacuum or in inert gas, showing at least the heel rind, weighing between 75 g. and 1 kg., with a cif value of:	
1	16,095 pesetas per 100 kg. nett weight or more, and less than 17,724 pesetas per 100 kg. nett	4,008 pesetas
2	17,724 pesetas or more per 100 kg. nett, per 100 kg. nett	3,173 pesetas
A.2	Other	45%
B	Glaris cheeses with herbs (named 'Schabziger') including powder, manufactured with skimmed milk and powdered herbs, complying with the conditions of Chapter Note 2 and additional Note 7	45%
C	Blue-veined cheeses:	
1	Roquefort, complying with the conditions of Chapter Note 2 and additional Note 7	45%
2	Gorgonzola, Bleu des Causses, Blue d'Auvergne, Bleu de Bresse, Fourme d'Ambert, Saingorlon, Edelpilzkase, Bluefort, Blue de Gex, Blue du Jura, Bleu de Sepmoncel, Danblu, Mycella, Blue Stilton, complying with the conditions of Chapter Note 1 and additional Note 7, and having a cif value of 12,189 pesetas or more per 100 kg. nett	45%
3	Other	45%
D	Processed cheeses:	
1	Complying with the conditions of Chapter Note 1 and additional Note 6 manufactured with Emmenthal, Gruyere and Appenzell cheeses only, with or without Glaris cheese with herbs, in portions or slices, with a dry-weight fat content of:	
a	Up to 48% (inclusive) for the total of the portions or slices, and with a cif value of 13,243 pesetas or more per 100 kg. nett	3,973 peseta
b	Up to 48% (inclusive) for 5/6th of the total of the portions or slices, and not exceeding 56% of the remaining 1/6th, and with a cif value of 13,243 pesetas or more per 100 kg. nett	3,973 pesetas
c	Exceeding 48% but not exceeding 56% for the total of the portions or slices, and with a cif value of 13,495 pesetas or more per 100 kg. nett	4,049 pesetas
D.2	Other processed cheeses, in portions or slices, complying with the conditions of Chapter Note 1 and additional Note 6 with a dry-weight extract content 40% or more, and fat content of:	
a	48% or less, with a cif value of 11,442 pesetas or more per 100 kg. nett	45%
b	Up to 63% with a cif value of 11,686 pesetas	45%
c	Up to 73% with cif value of 11,924 pesetas	45%
3	Other	45%
E	Curd	45%
F	Goat cheese, complying with the conditions of Chapter Note 2 and additional Note 7	45%
G	Other cheeses:	
1	With a fat content of 40% in weight or less, and with a water content of:	
a	47% in weight or less:	
1	Parmiggiano, Reggiano, Grana Padano, Percorino and Fioresardo, including powdered and grated cheese, complying with the conditions of Chapter Note 1 and additional Note 7 and with a cif value of 12,189 pesetas or more per 100 kg. nett	45%
2	Other	45%
b	More than 47% in weight and up to 72%:	
1	Cheddar, and Chester, complying with the conditions of Chapter Note 1 and additional Note 6 with a cif value of 11,216 pesetas or more per 100 kg. nett of Cheddar for processing and 12,493 pesetas or more per 100 kg. nett for others	45%
2	Provolone, Asiago, Caciocavallo and Ragusano, complying with the conditions of Chapter Note 1 and additional Note 7 and with a cif value of 12,189 pesetas or more per 100 kg. nett	45%
3	Butterkase, Cantal, Edam, Fontal, Fontina, Gouda, Italico, Kernham, Mimolette, St. Nectaire, St. Paulin, Tilsit, Havarti, Danbo, Samsoe, Fynbo and Maribo, complying with the conditions of Note 1 and additional Note 6 and with a cif value of 11,785 pesetas or more per 100 kg. nett for the EEC and 12,189 pesetas or more per 100 kg. nett for other countries (Preferential EEC	5,485 pesetas 5,303 pesetas)
4	Camembert, Brie, Taleggio, Maroilles, Coulommiers, carre de l'Est, Reblochon, Pont l'Eveque, Neufchatel, Limburger, Romadour, Herve, Harzerkase, Quest de Bruselas, Stracchino, Crescenza, Robiola, Livarot, Munster, and St. Marcellin complying with the conditions of Chapter Note 2 and additional Note 7	45%
5	Other cheeses with a water content (calculated on the non-fats) not exceeding 62% by weight, complying with the conditions of Note 1 and additional Note 7 and with a cif value of 13,530 pesetas or more per 100 kg. nett	45%
6	Other	45%
c	Exceeding 72% by weight and put up for retail sale in packagings containing nett:	
1	500 g. or less, complying with the conditions of Note 1 and additional Note 7 and with a cif value of 13,530 pesetas or more per 100 kg. nett	45%
2	More than 500 g.	45%
G.2	Other	45%

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 462/471/472/473.

Further Information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Exporters (CRE) Division, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: direct dialling); and Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Data Branch, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel: 01-248 5757). In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (OTAR or CRE) and, in the case of OTAR, the telephone extension. In the Tariff and Trade Notices section countries are grouped by continents as far as possible; they are listed alphabetically on the contents page.

Israel

Tariff amendments. The Israeli authorities have issued the following amendments to the customs tariff:

Item no.	Description	Rate of duty
39.07.5510	Subsection 5510 is superseded by: Inflatable articles of a surface not exceeding 500 sq. m.	20% *ad val.* kg.
40.14.6010	Subsection 6010 is superseded by: Inflatable articles of a surface not exceeding 500 sq. m.	20% *ad val.* kg.
55.05	This item is superseded by: Cotton yarn not put up for retail sale	12.5% *ad val.* kg.
62.04.9910	Subsection 9910 is superseded by: Inflatable articles of a surface not exceeding 500 sq. m.	20% *ad val.* kg.
62.04.9999	Subsection 9999 is superseded by: Other	12.5% *ad val.* kg.
68.10.9900	Subsection 9900 is superseded by: Other	15% *ad val.* kg.
73.10	In subsection 1020, the portion 'other than those falling under subsection 1070' shall be deleted In subsection 2010, the portion 'other than those falling under subsection 2020' shall be deleted	
84.54	In section 6000, the portion 'released before 1.4.75 shall be deleted	
90.07	Subsections 9910 and 9920 are superseded by:	
9920	The apparatus	10% *ad val.* kg.
90.08	Subsections 2090, 3090 and 9900 are superseded by: Other	10% *ad val.* each
91.01	Section 3000 is superseded by: Other, completely knocked down; provided that the assembly takes place under customs control in an enterprise recognised by the Director for the purpose of this item and that the list of goods imported has been approved by the Director and released before 1.10.75	Exempt Conditional
	Subsection 9990 is superseded by:	
9990	Other	
9991	with a metal wrist strap	IL 5 each + 15% *ad val.*
9999	other	15% *ad val.* each
92.13	Section 1000 is superseded by: Styli and cartridges for record players	40% *ad val.*
98.05	Subsection 9900 is superseded by: Other	20% *ad val.* but not less than IL 0.06 each

Amendments have also been made to the Israeli customs tariff which affect the following items:

The release date of 1.4.75 is amended to 1.4.76:

02.01.1011	02.01.1028	03.01.4021	03.02.9921
03.02.9931	04.04.4000	04.04.9910	07.04.4010
07.04.9910	07.05.4010	09.02.9991	09.10.7000
10.06.1010	10.06.9910	11.05.1000	12.01.2510
17.01.9910	20.02.6000	25.23.1020	48.01.3011
48.16.3000	84.10.3510	84.22.2010	84.22.5093
84.59.1551	84.60.4000	87.02.3091	87.02.3094
87.03.7000	87.03.8000	87.04.6011	87.04.6013

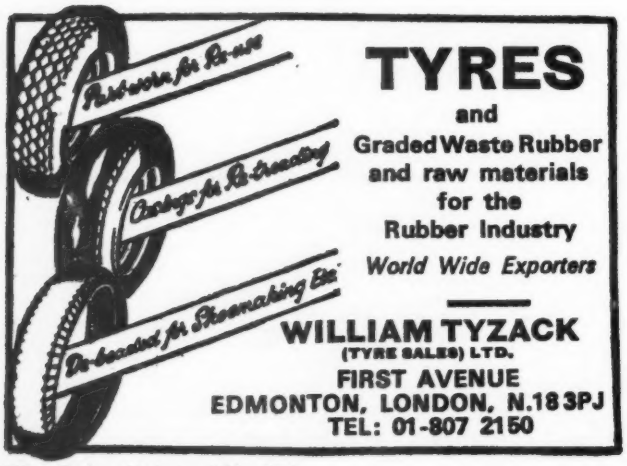
The release date of 1.4.75 is amended to 1.10.75:

68.09.1000	68.09.9910	73.12.9921	73.13.9931
84.22.9930	84.23.3000	85.20.2023	87.05.2000

The release date of 1.4.75 is amended to 1.7.75:

09.01.1512	09.01.1593	18.01.1010	18.03.1010
18.04.1000	44.23.1000	48.01.1010	44.23.2000

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 475/420.



Purchase tax amendments. The Israeli authorities have issued amendments to the Purchase Tax Order which affect the following items:

Fruit juices, sweetened beverages; fermented fruit beverages (103).
Composition leather; hides and skins (301).
Sensitive articles, unexposed or exposed, but not developed (601).
Microphones, stands therefor; loudspeakers; audio frequency amplifiers; sound amplifier sets; cupboards, cases or other containers for such articles (701).
Radio receivers; sound recorders and reproducers, magnetic recorders and reproducers; gramophones; radio; wire or tape players (703).
Appliances for ventilating and changing the temperature or humidity of air (906).
Electric shoe or toothbrushes, shavers, hair driers or curlers; appliances for rinsing or massaging the mouth, of for beauty parlours or body developing institutes, or parts thereof (914).
Tubes, pipes and parts or accessories therefor (1104).
Non-fibre plastic plates, sheets, foil, strip or ribbon, whether or not of expanded foam or sponge material (1401).
Rods, sections, discs, wall coverings; tablecloths, serviettes; all these of plastic material; oil cloth, linoleum; plastic threads (1411).
Engines of a piston displacement not exceeding 50 cc., used for the manufacture of a bicycle, released before 1 April 1976 (1509).

The figures in brackets are the Israeli purchase tax numbers and inquiriers should specify the numbers in which they are interested. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 475/420.

Iran

New import regulations. Further to *Trade and Industry*, 4 April (page 26), the import of items under BN 44.23 is now authorised. Import duty remains at 40 per cent under sub-headings A, B and C. The Commercial Benefit Tax is reduced to 50 Rials per kilo under sub-heading A and is not payable under sub-headings B and C. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 420/475.

Vehicle spares. Preliminary information has been received that restrictions on the import of certain spares for heavy trucks and locally produced vehicles have been lifted. These items include:

Pressed body parts, certain frame parts, mudguards, fenders, radiators, exhaust pipes and chassis.
Wires and wiring systems components for foreign made cars and locally manufactured vehicles.

Previously importation was only permissable with prior authority of the Ministry of Commerce. As soon as confirmation of details is received, a further notice will be published. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 420/475.

Madagascar

Business visits. International air services to Madagascar have recently been resumed (see *Trade and Industry* of 4 April 1975). Although martial law is still in force, entry formalities are now somewhat less rigorous and normal business contacts are again practicable. Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 5334/3338.

Togo

Tariff regime. The fiscal tax on goods under the following tariff headings has been modified 22.09, 24.02, 51.04, 55.09, 56.07. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 462/471/472/473.

CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Tel. Direct dialling (see end of each notice)

OTAR Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section
Tel. 01-248 5757 (extension at end of each notice)

Nigeria

Customs tariff change. Legal Notice No. 11 of 1975 published in the Federal Republic of Nigeria *Official Gazette* of 8 March 1975 amends, with effect from that date, the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff (Consolidation) Decree 1973 – Decree No. 6 as follows:

AMENDMENT OF SECTION V OF SCHEDULE I TO THE CUSTOMS TARIFF (CONSOLIDATION) DECREE 1973

Tariff no.	Extent of amendment		
27.10	In sub-heading A, *delete* the entries in the columns 'Tariff Description', 'Fiscal Entry' and 'Full' and *substitute* respectively the following sub-headings and rates of duty applicable thereto, that is:		
		Rate of duty	
	Tariff Description	Fiscal Entry	Full
	A Residual fuel oils (Ordinarily used as bunker or furnace fuel and not suitable for use in internal combustion engines); partly refined oils for further refining:		
	1 Low pour fuel oil imported by a user approved in that behalf by the Federal Commissioner for Mines and Power	Free	Free
	2 Other	the litre 1 k.	Free

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(*This note does not form part of the above Order but is intended to explain its purpose*)

The Order abolishes the duty on low pour fuel oil imported by users approved in that behalf by the Federal Commissioner for Mines and Power, and imposes duty on unspecified category of fuel oil in respect of other importers.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 473/472/471/462.

Mozambique

Imports subject to quotas in 1975. Further to the notice in *Trade and Industry*, 5 December 1974, the following additions have been made to the list of goods subject to quotas during 1975.

Customs classification	Goods
03.01.04	Sardines
ex 08.01/03	Dried dates and figs
08.12	Dried fruit
71.12/13	Jewellery
ex 84.40.03	Domestic washing machines
92.12.04	Sound equipment
97.02/06	Dolls, meccano toys, games, accessories for outdoor games (except those for sports)

Although no quota has been established, the import of the following goods is limited: olives, cider and other fermented beverages, concentrated extracts for domestic use, copper goods for domestic use, and roundabouts and swings.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 460/461.

South Africa

Tariff application. Tariff Application List 666, published in the South African *Government Gazette*, 2 May 1975 contains an application to the Board of Trade and Industries for increase in duty on

a Paraffin Wax classifiable under tariff subheading 27.13.10 and Scale Wax classifiable under tariff subheading 27.13.40

b Regenerated cellulose film, pressure-sensitive, classifiable under tariff subheading 39.03.10

c i Blind rivets of aluminium classifiable under tariff subheading 76.16.40
ii Blind rivets of iron or steel classifiable under tariff subheading 73.32.60
iii Riveting tools for use with blind rivets classifiable under tariff subheading 82.04.70

d Various chemicals and chemical products classifiable under tariff subheading 29.06.80, 29.22.75, 29.31.82, 29.35.86, 29.31.88, 29.35.87, 38.15, 29.22.80, 38.19.77.

e i Stretch or bulked yarn of polyamide fibres (continuous), space-dyed, classifiable under tariff subheading 51.01.08.20
ii Stretch or bulked yarn of synthetic fibres (continuous), space-dyed, classifiable under tariff subheading 51.01.12

f i Sodium hydroxide (caustic soda), solid, classifiable under tariff subheading 28.17.15
ii Sodium hydroxide (caustic soda), liquid, classifiable under tariff subheading 28.17.20

Registered trade marks

The lists of tariff, customs and import regulation changes in overseas countries published in this section of *Trade and Industry* sometimes contain words which are registered trade marks in the United Kingdom. So far as is practicable, all lists of goods are checked before publication from this point of view. Items which fall into this category are preceded by the letters rtm. Readers should note that this prefix signifies that the words are registered as trade marks in the United Kingdom but that in the present context are assumed to refer generally to products of the descriptions stated in brackets. While every attempt will be made to ensure that the scrutiny is complete, the lists may contain other words which are registered as trade marks in the United Kingdom or in other countries but which it has not been possible to identify.

Those British trade organisations thought to be interested in the application are being informed. Any British firm affected which wishes to make representations to the South African Board of Trade and Industries and belongs to a trade organisation should, therefore, first contact its own trade association. If any firm proposes to make independent representations to the South African authorities and requires further information concerning the application, it should address inquiries to CRE tel. 01-215 5274.

Singapore

Television sets: safety declaration. The Singapore Registrar of Imports and Exports has issued Import and Export Notice 6/75 dated 1 April 1975 which indicates that importers of TV sets must confirm in inward declarations that the sets imported comply with the safety standards recommended by the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP). The confirmation in the inward declarations should read as follows:

> These TV sets comply with the standards recommended in paragraph 289 of the ICRP Publication No. 15.
>
> Paragraph 289 of ICRP Publication No. 15 reads as follows:
>
> The exposure rate at any position 5 cm. from any outer surface of domestic-type television sets and of television equipment used for projection purposes, closed-circuit applications and the like shall not exceed 0.5 mR/h. *It is the manufacturer's responsibility to ensure that compliance with this recommendation is achieved.* In addition to radiation from the cathode-ray tubes, radiation may arise from high-tension rectifier and shunt voltage-regulator tubes which, because of the radiation transparency of their glass envelopes, may need to be enclosed in protection housings. Attention is also drawn to the substantial increase in radiation emission that occurs with increasing operating voltage; therefore, television apparatus shall not be adjusted to operate at higher voltages than those for which the protection was designed, and means shall be provided to prevent this from being done.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 401/468/469

Imports of crash helmets and visors. The Singapore Registrar of Imports and Exports has issued Import and Export Notice 7/75 dated 4 April 1975 which indicates that the import of crash helmets, and visors for use with crash helmets for use in Singapore by motor cyclists, scooterists and pillion riders is subject to the following control:

> Crash helmets
>
> a must be certified by the Singapore Institute of Standards and Industrial Research that they conform to Singapore Standard 9, and
>
> b must not be of a type which when worn, any part, extension or attachment thereof, obscures, conceals, covers or extends over any portion of the face between the eyebrows and the chin.
>
> Visors will not be permitted for import.

Inquiries OTAR ext. 401/468/469

Japan

Integrated circuits: import restrictions removed. Quota restrictions on Integrated circuits (BN 85.21(2)) have been removed by the Japanese authorities and these items can now be imported on the Import Declaration procedure. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 420/475.

Import duty changes. The following are the main changes in Japan's Customs tariff schedule, effective from 1 April 1975:

BTN	Description	New rate of duty
08.10	Pineapples, preserved by freezing, not containing added sugar	35%
16.05-2	Shrimps, prawns and lobsters:	
	a preserved by freezing or in cold storage after simply boiled in water	5%
	b brined or dried after simply boiled in water	6%
20.03	Pineapples, preserved by freezing, containing added sugar	35%
26.01-6	Molybdenum ore and concentrates	Free
27.01-1	Lubricating oils, of a specific gravity not more than 0.8494 at 15°C.	6%
27.01-1	Lubricating oils (cutting oils, insulating oils, etc.)	6%
28.20-1	Aluminium oxide, other than for use in manufacturing aluminium	Free
28.28-4	Lithium hydroxide	Free
29.31-4	Ethyl-xanthate, etc.	Free
29.39-1	Insulin	6%
30.03	Preparations with a basis of insulin	6%
44.27-2	Fancy articles of wood (of Kwarin, Tsuge, etc.)	8%
44.28-1	Other articles of wood (of Kwarin, Tsuge, etc.)	10%
64.01	Ski-boots	27%
67.05-2	Fans and hand screens, non-mechanical, made of, or combined with, red sandal wood, rosewood, etc.)	8%
75.01-3	Waste and scrap of alloyed nickel	Free
84.32	Book-binding machinery	8%
84.35-1	Printing machines and parts thereof	8%
87.02-2	Buses	6.4%
87.02-3	Trucks, vans or lorries	6.4%
87.02-4	Vehicles of track-laying type, shuttle cars, motor chassis	
87.03	fitted with cabs, special vehicles, etc.	6.4%
98.01-2	Ships and boats of a gross tonnage or not less than 100 tons and of less than 10,000 tons	Free
89.02	Vessels specially designed for towing or pushing other vessels	Free
89.03	Light-vessels, etc.	Free
90.02-1	Lenses and other optical elements for photographic cameras, etc.	6%
90.11	Microscopes, etc.	6%
91.02-1	Clocks with case made of, or combined with, precious metals etc.	8%
91.02-2	Clocks, other	8%
91.03	Instrument panel clocks for vehicles, aircraft, etc.	8%
91.04-3-(1)	Other clocks (other than those with case made of, or combined with, precious stones, etc.)	10%
91.07	Watch movements	8%
91.09-2	Watch cases and parts of watch cases (other than those of gold or metals of platinum group)	10%
91.10-2	Clock cases and parts thereof (other than those made of, or combined with, precious metals, etc.)	10%
10.05	Maize(for feeding purposes)	Free
74.01-2-(1)	Unwrought copper for smelting or refining	
	a Not more than Y415 per kg. in value	Y15 per kg.
	b Between Y415 and Y430	Y430 minus Y
	c More than Y430	Free
74.01-2-(2)	Unwrought copper (other than for smelting or refining:	
	a Not more than Y425 per kg. in value	Y15 per kg.
	b Between Y425 and Y440	Y440 minus Y
	c More than Y440	Free
74.01-3	Waste and scrap of unalloyed copper	Free

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 420/475.

JAPAN DISSATISFIED WITH THE LIMITED RESULTS ACHIEVED THROUGH AGENTS AND DISTRIBUTORS?

EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITIES await enterprising British manufacturers in the form of joint venture operations, wholly owned subsidiaries, branch sales operations and technological licence agreements in Japan. But in order to ensure that the best possible advantage is taken of such opportunities, it is absolutely essential to appoint a local representative possessing the necessary expertise and connections to act on your behalf. As Advisers and Consultants with years of experience of negotiations with the Japanese in the above sectors, we are pleased to offer our specialised services, which also include market research.

Mr. Rock from our Tokyo office is now stationed in the U.K. He may be reached by telephone at Poole 77502, day or night, and is available for consultations with clients on the spot whenever necessary.

G. INOUYE, Managing Director
RAYDEN (JAPAN) LTD, Shokin Building, 11-12, 8-chome, Ginza, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan. Tel: 571-8023/5. Telex: J26847 (Raydenco).
Cables: Raydenco, TOKYO

Australia

Glass and glassware. The Australian Government has generally accepted, subject to international commitments, the following long-term recommendations of the Industries Assistance Commission in its report on glass and glassware.

The new rates of duty which will apply to the principal glass products are:

Glass containers	Generally 5%
Flat glass	15%
Table, kitchen glassware	30 cents per dozen and 10% of the value
Heat-resisting glassware for cooking purposes	45% to 30 June 1975 30% from 1 July 1975
Heat-resisting glassware not for cooking purposes	30 cents per dozen and 10% of the value
Illuminating glassware	35%
Glass wool	15%
Glass fibre rovings	40%

Full details of tariff sub-headings and effective dates will be published as soon as they are available. In the meantime, the Australian Government has also decided to ask the Temporary Assistance Authority to investigate the need for short-term assistance for two sectors of the industry – namely flat glass and table and kitchen glassware (including lead glassware) tariff items 70.04, 70.05, 70.06.9, 70.07.1, 70.07.2, 70.07.9, 70.08.9, 70.09.9,70.13.1 and 70.13.9 – which have indicated that they have been experiencing some difficulties in recent months. Should urgent action be found necessary the Temporary Assistance Authority has been asked to recommend whether, having regard to the public interest and to Australia's obligations under bilateral or multilateral trade agreements, the protection can appropriately be provided by means of a temporary duty or, if it cannot be so provided, whether it can appropriately be provided by means of the temporary prohibition or restriction of the importation of those goods or by means of a combination of both a temporary duty and the temporary prohibition or restriction of the importation of those goods. Ref. CRE 946/75. Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319.

Tariff reports. The Australian Government has decided to take no action as a result of reports following Industries Assistance Commission's inquiries into second-hand railway locomotives, fine papers, certain plastic products, and chain saws and engines for chain saws.

Consumer electronic equipment and components The Australian Government has accepted the report by the Temporary Assistance Authority on Consumer Electronic Equipment and Components. The report states that although urgent action is not necessary to protect the manufacture in Australia of colour television receivers, a case can be found for temporary assistance on certain monochrome television receivers, picture tubes and some components.

Accordingly the Australian Government has imposed additional duties of 10 per cent *ad valorem* on monochrome television receivers and picture tubes with a screen size of not less than 17 in., certain fixed electrical capacitors of the fixed power factor correction, electrolytic paper, metallised paper, plastic and metallised plastic types, ferrite cores, slugs and other shapes, and loudspeakers.

Details of the customs tariff changes arising from the Government's decision will be published as soon as they are available but in the meanwhile the Special Minister of State has sent a reference to the Industries Assistance Commission requesting a report on the question whether long term assistance should be accorded the production in Australia of:

a Monochrome television reception apparatus incorporating or designed for use with a cathode-ray picture tube having a cross-sectional dimension exceeding 41 centimetres including such goods incorporating radio broadcasting receivers, sound recorders or reproducers, but not including, when imported separately, channel tuners or parts of channel tuners, being apparatus of a kind falling within sub-item 85.15.1.

b Monochrome cathode-ray picture tubes having a cross-sectional dimension exceeding 41 centimetres, being tubes of a kind falling within sub-item 85.21.9.

c Loudspeakers of a kind falling within sub-item 85.14.9.

d Fixed electrical capacitors that are of the following types: electrolytic

BICC's Supertension Cables Division has completed despatch of the 525 kV oil-filled cable for its supply and installation contract awarded by the United States Department of the Interior for the Bureau of Reclamation's Grand Coulee Dam third powerplant. When the order was given to BICC, this particular cable was the highest AC voltage commercial cable of its kind. The cables were coiled on 27 metal drums, each weighing 20 tonnes and the picture shows one of these arriving at the Grand Coulee Dam.

paper; metallised paper
plastic; metallised plastic
being capacitors of a kind falling within sub-item 85.18.9.

UK trade associations or firms intending to submit evidence to the Industries Assistance Commission should so advise the Secretary, Industries Assistance Commission, PO Box 80, Canberra ACT 2600, Australia without delay through their accredited agent or through the Australian British Trade Association, 21 Tothill Street, London SW1 (tel. 01-799 7447). The association charges a fee for its services, the amount varying according to the work entailed in the preparation of a submission and whether or not the interested party is a member. Ref. 6/75. Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 5319.

Frozen potato products: temporary protection. The Department of Manufacturing Industry has received a request for temporary protection against imports of frozen potatoes falling within item 07.02.900 of the Customs Tariff.

Requests for temporary protection are received initially by the Department of Manufacturing Industry and, after examination, are submitted to the Special Minister of State for consideration. The Special Minister of State may refer the request to a Temporary Assistance Authority for inquiry and report. Any temporary protection which may be accorded on the recommendation of the Temporary Assistance Authority is in the nature of a holding action pending Government consideration of the general question of protection for the local industry following inquiry and report by the Industries Assistance Commission.

Exporters should note that the Australian Prime Minister has made it clear that should the need for urgent action emerge from these inquiries goods ordered overseas but not cleared for home consumption at the date of the announcement, will be subject to the terms of the action. Australian importers have been urged therefore to exercise caution in placing orders overseas and in entering into financial commitments on such orders, as special consideration may not be given to outstanding commitments should action be taken by the Government.

UK firms or trade associations intending to submit evidence should advise the Secretary, Industries Assistance Commission, PO Box 80, Canberra, ACT 2600, Australia without delay through their accredited agent. Evidence may be submitted either directly by the firm or trade association concerned or through the Australian British Trade Association, 21 Tothill Street, London SW1 (tel. 01-799 7447). The Association charges a fee for its services, the amount varying according to the work entailed in the preparation of a submission and whether or not the interested party is a member. Ref. CRE 948/75. Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 5319.

New Zealand

Incubators for premature infants: Tariff and Development Board report. Copies of the following New Zealand Tariff and Development Board report are available from Commercial Relations and Exports Division:

Incubators for Premature Infants (tariff item 90.17.001

Ref. CRE 1159/72. Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 5321.

Canada

Motor Vehicle Safety Regulations. Canada *Gazette* of 9 April published details of amendments to the Motor Safety Regulations. Further information is available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 455/456/457.

United States

Hearings by trade policy staff committee. Further to recent notices about hearings by the US International Trade Commission, notification has been received that there are to be public hearings under the auspices of the Office of the Special Representative for Trade Negotiations in order to evaluate the impact on the US economy of possible changes in the US tariff and trade structure.

The hearings are expected to begin early in June, and interested parties may appear at them. Requests to appear should be submitted

by mid-May and briefs of testimony to be given will be required towards the end of May. Any testimony should be directly pertinent to the line of inquiry. Inquiries about participation should be directed to Office of the Special Representative for Trade Negotiations, for the attention of the Secretary of Trade Policy Staff Committee, Room 729, 1800 G Street, NW Washington, DC 20506, USA.

Jamaica

Food and drugs regulations. The *Jamaican Gazette* Supplement No. 18 of 3 March 1975 published the Food and Drugs Regulations 1974. The regulations update the Food and Drugs Act 1964 concerning foods, drugs, cosmetics and devices. Copies may be obtained from OTAR ext. 7312/456/457.

Montserrat

Customs duty and consumption tax exemptions. The Montserrat authorities state that the following items are exempt from import duty: spectacles, pince-nez, lorgnettes, goggles and the like, protective or other.

Consumption tax on potatoes, not including sweet potatoes (*Trade and Industry*, 26 December 1974, page 720) has been rescinded.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 7312/456/457.

Argentina

Foreign exchange. Announcements made on 24 April by the Ministry of Economy and by the Central Bank restricted, from 23 April, the issue of Certificates of Necessity and of foreign exchange for goods which had either already been shipped, which were awaiting clearance in Argentine ports, or for which irrevocable letters of credit had been opened and transmitted. The issue of credit for goods for which Certificates of Necessity have already been revaliditated will be subject to further approval by the Central Bank following the declaration made by importers as to the last amount of foreign credit obtained up to close of business on 22 April. The transfer of foreign credit not covered by these restrictions has also been suspended. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 474/476.

Uruguay

Import duty concessions. Uruguayan decree 229 of 20 March 1975 extends the exemption of the following goods from payment of import duties and taxes until 30 September 1975:

Raw sugar for refining, yerba mate (semi-processed), unroasted coffee beans, hessian, road-making machinery, and medicaments and raw materials for their manufacture.

Imports of processed yerba mate will remain exempt from 50 per cent of these duties and taxes.

The concessions will apply to these goods only if they are imported free of surcharge or with a surcharge not exceeding 10 per cent. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 474/476.

Crude cellulose sulphate. Uruguayan decree 206 of 13 March 1975 extends until 1 November 1975 the exemption from all surcharges, customs and other dues on the import of crude cellulose sulphate used for the manufacture of multi-ply paper sacks. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 474/476.

Prefabricated cold-storage rooms and equipment: tax exemption. Uruguayan decree 258 of 4 April 1975 exempts until 31 December 1975 equipment for cold-storage rooms, prefabricated cold-storage rooms, and their spares and accessories, from all surcharges, consular fees, prior deposits, port taxes and additional duties, as well as all import duties. An import certificate issued by the Uruguayan Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is required.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 474/476.

CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Department of Trade
1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET
Tel. Direct dialling (see end of each notice)

OTAR Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section,
Export Data Branch
Export Services and Promotions Division
Department of Trade
Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU
Tel. 01-248 5757 (extension at end of each notice)

UK businessmen going overseas

British businessmen intending to travel overseas are urged in their own interests to make the earliest possible contact, before going abroad, with the Export Services and Promotions Division of the Department of Trade (at the appropriate Regional Office for firms outside London, and Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU for firms in London and the South East of England). The Department, in co-operation with Commercial Officers at Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates overseas, is in a position to provide advice when it is required, and to help, where appropriate, in making trade contacts related to the purpose of the visit. Even where a businessman does not require specific assistance it is valuable for him to meet the Commercial Officers to get up-to-date information about the market. The Department of Trade would therefore welcome receiving notification of any businessmen intending to travel overseas. To enable the overseas Commercial Officers to be of the greatest assistance to UK visitors the Department needs to be able to brief the overseas officers as fully as possible. The range of information required for this purpose includes details of the firm, their products/services and the purpose and background to the visit.

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European Community

European Unit of Account:
Ministers adopt 'basket' system for European Development Fund and European Investment Bank

The EDF/EIB unit of account is based on a 'basket' of the currencies of the nine Member States.

Proposals for the introduction of a new unit of account for the European Development Fund (EDF) and European Investment Bank (EIB) now have the approval of Community Finance Ministers. The move represents the first step away from the hitherto gold-based ua, to a unit reflecting, and based upon, the currencies of the Nine.

The Council decision on the EDF/EIB ua, which was taken on 18 March 1975, provides in these two cases for a redefinition of the unit of account, the Community's common monetary unit, based on a 'basket' of the currencies of all Member States. The EDF, the aid fund for the 46 Lomé Convention* countries, and loans from the EIB will now be expressed in each currency in terms of the new unit. There are no immediate plans for its extension to other areas.

A notional mechanism

Since the Treaty of Rome was signed, the Community has sought to find a convenient accounting mechanism for its multi-currency transactions – in the Community budget, for example. The unit of account was created to solve the problems posed by the diversity of the Member States' currencies in these transactions and provide a consistent vehicle for expressing national currency receipts and expenditure, especially where relative currency values are changing. It is only a notional form of monetary expression with no existence in the world of exchange and payments.

Existing units

A number of different Community uas have been created, including the budget unit, the European Coal and Steel Community unit, the agricultural unit, the European Investment Bank unit, the Common Customs Tariff unit and the unit for the European Development Fund.

All of these units were gold-based and their value defined as 0.88867088 grammes of fine gold. The conversion formula for all EEC uas was originally conversion at par values of Member States' currencies as declared to the International Monetary Fund. But recent monetary developments have led to the widespread non-observance of parities in a world of floating currencies with the result that the conversion rates for these uas have varied significantly from the rates on the exchange market.

Creation of the currency 'basket'

Certain provisional solutions have been found; the ECSC unit, for example, uses a conversion formula based on the 'snake' currencies which more closely reflects the current market exchange rates.

It has become necessary, however, to define the EEC unit of account in a way better suited to present circumstances, especially where, as with the EDF/EIB, a new unit is needed. The value of the new EDF/EIB unit of account will equal the sum of fixed amounts in the currencies of each Member State. The UK share is £0.0885 (for other Member States' shares see table below). The result is a 'basket' type ua which represents an average of the elements which compose it. The composition of this 'basket' is chosen in such a way that its value on 28 June 1974 would have been equivalent to that of the IMF's Special Drawing Right.

When the exchange rate for a single currency changes, necessitating adjustment to the value of the ua, the burden is shared between all currencies according to a fixed amount (weighting) assigned to each of them. The value of the new EDF/EIB unit is always equal to the sum of these weightings. The weighting of the pound sterling in the 'basket' is 17.5 per cent, the Deutschemark 27.3 per cent, the French franc 19.5 per cent, etc. (see table).

The value of the 'basket' is equal to the sum of the following amounts in the currencies of the EEC Member States:			The weighting coefficients which determine the amounts in national currencies are as follows:
DM	0.828	(Germany)	27.3 %
£	0.0885	(UK)	17.5 %
FF	1.15	(France	19.5 %
Lira	109.00	(Italy)	14.0 %
D. Guilder	0.286	(Netherlands)	9.0 %
BF	3.66	(Belgium)	7.9 %
Lux. F	0.14	(Luxembourg)	0.3 %
D. Kr	0.217	(Denmark)	3.0 %
Irish £	0.00759	(Ireland)	1.5 %

In this way the amount of each Member State's contribution to the 'basket' will never alter, but the value of the unit of account itself will vary daily as the different currencies fluctuate against each other.

The following example shows the value of the exchange rates for one unit of account on 1 April 1975:

1 ua =	DM	3.04870
	£	0.541298
	FF	5.48201
	Lira	821.398
	D. Guilder	3.11780
	BF	45.1659
	D.Kr.	7.12718

* An article describing the provisions of the EEC/ACP Convention of Lomé appeared in the 14 March issue of *Trade and Industry*

EEC referendum

Information leaflets published

Three information leaflets on UK membership of the European Community have now been published.

Produced by the Cabinet Office Referendum Information Unit, the Government's Official leaflet – *Britain's New Deal in Europe* – is a popular version of the *Report on Renegotiation** White Paper which was published on 27 March. The leaflet contains a less technical account of the renegotiated terms and the Government's recommendation and an explanation of the way in which the referendum will be conducted.

The other two leaflets – *Why you should vote yes* and *Why you should vote no* – were prepared by the two opposing campaign organisations, the pro-EEC Britain in Europe and the anti-EEC National Referendum Campaign.

All three documents will be delivered to 20 million households throughout the UK and to members of the armed services and their dependants overseas. At the same time copies will be made available in Post Offices. The Government authorised early publication of the leaflets last week after copies were leaked to a national newspaper.

* Cmnd. 6003, 38p.

New phone links for inquiries

Direct telephone links between Cardiff, Edinburgh, and Belfast and the Government's special Referendum Information Unit in Whitehall are now in operation.

Members of the public, interested organisations, and the media in Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland who need more facts about the Government's policy towards Europe, the Community, or the renegotiated terms, can ring their local numbers and go straight through to the small team of experts from Whitehall departments who are providing an answering service in London.

The numbers to ring for new linked lines are

Cardiff 372925;
Edinburgh 031-225 6626/7;
Belfast 20874.

Letters should be addressed to the Referendum Information Unit, 70 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2AS (tel. 01-930 3121).

New EC Legislation

Applications for copies of the *Official Journal of the European Communities* containing the legislation referred to should be made to HMSO and not to the inquiry points given in the notices.

The legislation listed below has been published in the 'Official Journal of the European Communities' as indicated against each item. The 'Official Journal' is now published in English and copies should be obtained from HMSO. Information about the items listed, in so far as other Member States' requirements are concerned, is available to British exporters from Department of Trade, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 7174/482/408). Other information may be obtained from the reference point given at the end of the item.

IMPORTS FROM NON-MEMBER STATES. The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L69, 18 March 1975, contains the text of Decision 75/165/EEC authorising France not to apply Community treatment to radio receivers whether or not combined with a sound recorder or reproducer falling within heading 85.15 A III of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Taiwan and in free circulation in the other Member States.

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS. The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L76, 25 March 1975 contains the text of Regulation (EEC) 763/75 amending Article 5 of Regulation (EEC) 375/69 on the declaration of particulars relating to the value of goods for customs purposes.

The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L102, 22 April 1975, contains the text of Regulation (EEC) 1028/75 amending Articles 6 (2) and 8 (4) of Regulation (EEC) 803/68 on the valuation of goods for customs purposes.

Further information: HM Customs and Excise, Valuation Division, Vintry House, Queen Street Place, London EC4, tel. 01-626 1515, ext. 2770.

COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY. The texts of the following Regulations which affect the various agricultural sectors in the EEC have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities.*

General. Regulation (EEC) 645/75 laying down common detailed rules for the application of the export levies and charges on agricultural products. (*Official Journal* L67, 14 March 1975)

Sugar. Regulation (EEC) 824/75 laying down transitional measures applicable to sugar imported by the Community under preferential arrangements. (*Official Journal* L79, 28 March 1975)

Regulation (EEC) 825/75 laying down special detailed rules for the application of export levies on sugar. (*Official Journal* L79, 28 March 1975)

Cattle, beef and veal. Regulation (EEC) 776/75 amending Regulation (EEC) 2778/74 as regards the granting of private storage aid for beef. (*Official Journal* L77, 26 March 1975)

Regulation (EEC) 822/75 extending the period of validity of Regulation (EEC) 377/74 making temporary provision for private storage aids for boned or boneless meat in the beef and veal sector. (*Official Journal* L79, 28 March 1975)

Corrigenda. The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L68, 15 March 1975, contains the text of the following correction to Regulation (EEC) 610/75 on protective measures for certain beef and veal products falling within subheading 16.02 B III b)1 of the Common Customs Tariff (published in *Official Journal* L63, 8 March 1975)
Page 37, Article 1:

for: 'free circulation within the Community . . .'
read: 'entry for free circulation within the Community . . .'

The *Official Journal* L105, 25 April 1975, contains the text of the following correction to Regulation (EEC) 888/75 amending Regulation (EEC) 610/75 on protective measures for certain beef and veal products falling within subheading 16.02 B III b)1 of the Common Customs Tariff. (*Official Journal* L85, 5 April 1975)
Page 27, Article 1 (1) (a) and (b):

for: 'containers',
read: 'containers of packages'.

Pigs and pigmeat. Regulation (EEC) 775/75 amending Regulation (EEC) 1637/74 as regards the granting of private storage aid for certain pigmeat products. (*Official Journal* L77, 26 March 1975)

Milk and milk products. Regulation (EEC) 697/75 amending the Annexes to Regulation (EEC) 1053/68 as regards the conditions for the admission of certain milk products to certain tariff headings. (*Official Journal* L69, 18 March 1975)

Regulation (EEC) 699/75 amending Regulation (EEC) 1107/68 on detailed rules of application for intervention on the market in Grana Padano and Parmigiano Reggiano cheeses. (*Official Journal* L69, 18 March 1975)

Regulation (EEC) 656/75 amending Regulation (EEC) 950/68 on the Common Customs Tariff as regards the exchange rate to be applied in respect of the tariff classification of certain cheeses. (*Official Journal* L72, 20 March 1975)

Regulation (EEC) 740/75 amending Regulation (EEC) 804/68 as regards the conditions for the granting of aid for the private storage of Grana Padano and Parmigiano Reggiano cheeses. (*Official Journal* L74, 22 March 1975)

Regulation (EEC) 823/75 amending Regulation (EEC) 823/68 as regards the conditions for the entry of certain cheeses under certain tariff headings and Regulation (EEC) 950/68 on the Common Customs Tariff. (*Official Journal* L79, 28 March 1975)

Regulation (EEC) 837/75 amending Regulation (EEC) 685/69 on detailed rules of application for intervention on the market in butter and cream. (*Official Journal* L79, 28 March 1975)

Regulation (EEC) 838/75 amending Regulation (EEC) 1579/70 laying down special conditions for the export of certain cheeses to Spain. (*Official Journal* L79, 28 March 1975)

Wine. Regulation (EEC) 612/75 amending Regulation (EEC) 1019/70 on detailed rules for establishing free-at-frontier offer prices and fixing the countervailing charge in the wine sector. (*Official Journal* L64, 11 March 1975)

The *Official Journal* L76, 25 March 1975, contains the text of a correction to Regulation (EEC) 612/75 as follows:
Page 3, Annex I, box 3:

for: 'Geological'
read: 'Oenological'.

Regulation (EEC) 719/75 on private storage aid for table wines standing in close economic relationship with table wines of the type R II. (*Official Journal* L71, 20 March 1975)

Regulation (EEC) 678/75 amending Regulation (EEC) 816/70 as regards the definition of alcohol-muted fresh grape must and amending Chapter 22 of the Common Customs Tariff. (*Official Journal* L72, 20 March 1975)

Regulation (EEC) 679/75 amending Regulation (EEC) 1599/71 laying down additional conditions with which imported wines for direct human consumption have to comply. (*Official Journal* L72, 20 March 1975)

Regulation (EEC) 680/75 amending Regulation (EEC) 1876/74 concerning the addition of alcohol to products in the wine sector. (*Official Journal* L72, 20 March 1975).

Regulation (EEC) 681/75 amending Regulation (EEC) 948/70 defining certain products falling within heading Nos. 20.07, 22.04 and 22.05 of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in third countries. (*Official Journal* L72, 20 March 1975)

Regulation (EEC) 736/75 amending Regulation (EEC) 2865/73 as regards in particular the lists of agencies and laboratories which are empowered to issue the document accompanying wines for direct human consumption imported from third countries. (*Official Journal* L73, 21 March 1975)

Regulation (EEC) 820/75 specifying the maximum quantity of table wine which may be distilled pursuant to Regulation (EEC) 267/75. (*Official Journal* L78, 27 March 1975)

Regulation (EEC) 1036/75 laying down general rules governing the distillation of table wines during the period 7 June to 31 July 1975. (*Official Journal* L103, 23 April 1975)

Processed agricultural products. Regulation (EEC) 836/75 amending Regulations (EEC) 3348/73 and (EEC) 3206/74 as regards detailed rules for the application of the charges on the exportation of certain goods covered by Regulation (EEC) 1059/69. (*Official Journal* L79, 28 March 1975)

Corrigendum. The *Official Journal* L65, 12 March 1975, contains the text of the following correction to Regulation (EEC) 3206/74 (published in *Official Journal* L341, 20 December 1974)
Page 44, Article 6 (8), third line:

for: 'advance fixing for sugar . . .'
read: 'advance fixing of sucrose . . .'

Tobacco. Regulation (EEC) 633/75 concerning the documentary evidence to be presented for the importation of raw or unmanufactured flue-cured Virginia type tobacco originating in developing countries. (*Official Journal* L66, 13 March 1975)

Regulation (EEC) 772/75 amending Regulation (EEC) 2468/72 determining collection, processing and storage centres for intervention on the market in raw tobacco. (*Official Journal* L77, 26 March 1975)

Regulation (EEC) 773/75 amending Regulation (EEC) 2603/71 on detailed rules for the conclusion of contracts for first processing and market preparation of tobacco held by intervention agencies. (*Official Journal* L77, 26 March 1975)

Fish and fish products. Regulation (EEC) 702/75 amending Regulation (EEC) 460/75 laying down protective measures in respect of the import of certain fishery products. (*Official Journal* L69, 18 March 1975)

Regulation (EEC) 1052/75 amending Regulation (EEC) 1109/71 on detailed rules for determining the entry price for certain fishery products. (*Official Journal* L104, 24 April 1974)

Fruit and vegetables. Regulation (EEC) 840/75 fixing for the 1975 marketing year the reference prices for tomatoes. (*Official Journal* L79, 28 March 1975)

Cereals and rice. Regulation (EEC) 665/75 amending Regulation (EEC) 120/67 on the common organisation of the market in cereals. (*Official Journal* L72, 20 March 1975)

Regulation (EEC) 668/75 amending Regulation (EEC) 359/67 on the common organisation of the market in rice. (*Official Journal* L72, 20 March 1975)

Regulation (EEC) 764/75 amending Regulation (EEC) 2012/74 laying down detailed rules of application as regards production refunds in the cereals and rice sector. (*Official Journal* L76, 25 March 1975)

Regulation (EEC) 771/75 amending Regulations (EEC) 3130/73 and (EEC) 3197/73 establishing the conditions for the application of the system of tendering for export levies for cereals and for rice respectively. This inserts an Article 8 (a) in Regulations (EEC) 3103/73 and (EEC) 3197/73 as follows:
'Article 8a
The provisions of Article 5 (2) of Regulation (EEC) 645/75 shall not apply where the export levy is fixed by tender for specific destinations'. (*Official Journal* L77, 26 March 1975)

Regulation (EEC) 1042/75 concerning the minimum free-at-factory price per 100 kg. of potatoes and amending the Annex to Regulation (EEC) 1980/74. (*Official Journal* L103, 23 Apr.l 1975)

Seeds. Regulation (EEC) 671/75 amending the Annex to Regulation (EEC) 2358/71 on the common organisation of the market in seeds. (*Official Journal* L72, 20 March 1975)

Dehydrated fodder. Regulation (EEC) 832/75 laying down detailed rules for the application of the system of aid for dehydrated fodder. (*Official Journal* L79, 28 March 1975)

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be addressed to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 437, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, and *not* to HMSO.

EEC tariff quotas for certain textiles from Malta in 1975

In *Trade and Industry* of 16 January 1975 notice was given of EEC tariff quotas opened for 1975. This included four duty-free tariff quotas for textile goods from Malta under the tariff headings 55.05 (cotton yarn), 56.04 (certain man-made fibres), 60.05 (certain knitted outer garments) and 61.01 (men's and boys' outer garments). The UK's share of the tariff quota for 61.01 has been exhausted including drawings on the Community reserve which has also now been exhausted.

The Council of the EEC has now approved a Regulation, which is being published in the *Official Journal of the Communities*, providing increases of 5 per cent in all four of the Community tariff quotas, provided for under the EEC Agreement with Malta, for 1975. These increases, which like increases made when the 1974 quotas were established, are to give Malta no less favourable treatment than that granted to other developing countries under the EEC's Generalised System of Tariff Preferences. The Regulation which will come into force on 1 June 1975 provides that the increase will be allocated to the Community reserve in each case and not to individual Member States.

Any claims by UK importers which it may be possible to meet by drawing on the increased Community reserve for 61.01 (or for any of the other quotas whose initial shares and reserves may be exhausted before 1 June) will be considered by HM Customs and further information may be obtained from the Tariff Quota Registration Unit at the address below. As, however, it is impossible to say what would be the outcome of any UK applications to draw on the Community reserves no assurance can be given that claims can be met.

General inquiries about tariff quotas should be addressed to General Division 2 of the Department of Trade, Room 333, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ. Inquiries about how much a quota has been used should be made to Tariff Quota Registration Unit, HM Customs and Excise, King's Beam House, Mark Lane, London EC3 7HE, tel. 01-626 1515 ext. 2570. Customs Notice 771, obtainable free from any Customs House or office of HM Customs and Excise, explains how claims for tariff quota relief should be made.

EEC information for businessmen: free booklet

EEC – Your Questions Answered, an 87-page booklet published by the EEC Information Unit, contains answers to businessmen's inquiries on a wide range of EEC subjects. These include trade with EFTA and other countries associated with the Community, customs procedures and documentation, tariffs, market information and non-tariff barriers to trade.

The booklet also provides basic information about the role of the Community institutions and has articles on the ECSC, Euratom and the European Investment Bank. The final section of the booklet is devoted to time-saving reference material including a glossary of abbreviations, lists of publications and 18 pages of useful addresses and contacts in Europe and the UK.

The EEC Information Unit, from which copies of the booklet may be obtained free of charge, was set up specifically to help the businessman wanting facts about the EEC and the way its policy, procedures and legislation could affect his business operations and decisions. Although the Unit's prime responsibility is with those matters which are the concern of the Departments of Industry, Trade and Prices and Consumer Protection, it is usually possible to direct an inquirer to sources of specialist advice in other government departments. The address for inquiries or publication requests is the EEC Information Unit, Department of Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, tel. 01-215 4301 (6 lines).

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*Peter Douglas is author of 'French Markets Review 1975–76: A Guide to Business Prospects and Procedures' (Gower Press).

Statistics

The economy: selected indicators

Series expressed as index numbers and seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers' expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure: Total	Fixed capital expenditure: of which: Manufacturing industry	Fixed capital expenditure: of which: Distributive and service industries	Changes in stocks: Total	Changes in stocks: of which: Manufacturing industry	Changes in stocks: of which: Wholesalers	Changes in stocks: of which: Retailers	Balance of payments: Current balance	Balance of payments: Visible balance	Balance of payments: Invisible balance
	at 1970 prices		at 1970 prices			at 1970 prices				at current prices		
Base of index	1970	1970	1970	1970	1970							
£m in base year		31,387	9 223	2,130	2,089	series in £ million				series in £ million		
1970	100	100	100	100	100	438	324	68	−23	698	−11	709
1971	101	103	100	94	103	111	−126	52	−4	1,052	273	778
1972	104	109	106	85	116	−54	−203	48	3	82	−683	765
1973	110	114	110	90	121	696	374	32	242	−1,117	−2,301	1,184
1974	109	114	108	100	111	265	435	34	−124	−3,828	−5,259	1,431
1972 1st qtr.	101	106	105	90	108	−34	−62	17	−16	85	−123	208
2nd qtr.	104	108	106	84	115	−31	−106	1	38	123	−67	190
3rd qtr.	104	110	106	82	116	−7	−42	6	−13	−109	−284	175
4th qtr.	107	111	108	83	123	18	7	24	−6	−17	−209	192
1973 1st qtr.	110	115	112	89	127	277	146	11	32	−184	−354	170
2nd qtr.	109	112	107	86	113	188	61	−9	163	−210	−401	191
3rd qtr.	110	114	111	91	120	100	68	6	22	−230	−569	339
4th qtr.	110	114	111	94	125	131	99	24	25	−493	−977	484
1974 1st qtr.	106	113	112	99	111	−235	−100	8	−73	−971	−1,279	308
2nd qtr.	110	112	105	99	107	209	−138	42	11	−985	−1,316	331
3rd qtr.*	112	114	106	99	115	257	299	−27	−28	−797	−1,210	413
4th qtr.	110	116	107	102	112	34	+99	10	−34	−1,075	−1,454	379
% change last 2 qtrs. on prev. 2 qtrs.	+3.0	+2.2	−1.8	+1.5	+4.1							
on a year earlier	+1.3	+0.9	−4.1	+8.6	−7.3							

	Index of industrial production: Total all industries	Index of industrial production: Total manufacturing industries	Personal expenditure: Retail sales	Personal expenditure: Cars: new registrations	Prices and costs: Index of retail prices: Index‡	Index of retail prices: % increase on a year earlier	Index of wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: basic materials and fuel used‡	Index of wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: manufactured products: home sales‡	Basic hourly wage rates of manual workers (all industries and services)‡	Labour: Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: mid-month count	Labour: Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: % of total employees	Labour: Unfilled vacancies for adults: mid-month count	Trade§: Exports	Trade§: Imports
				monthly averages									totals	
Base of index	1970	1970	1971		16 Jan. 1962		1970	1970	31 July 1972				Series in	
£m in base year			15,895	thousands						thousands		thousands	£ million	
1971	100.4	99.6	100.0	108.5	153.4	9.4	104.6	109.0	88.9	737	3.2	129	8,801	8,528
1972	102.4	102.0	105.8	138.6	164.3	7.1	109.2	114.8	101.4	816	3.6	145	9,147	9,830
1973	109.9	110.5	110.7	137.3	179.4	9.2	144.5	123.2*	115.5	581	2.6	304	11,512	13,813
1974	106.4	107.9	109.9	102.7	108.5†	16.0	215.3	152.0	138.5	572+	2.5+	298+	15,589	20,848
1973 3rd qtr.	110.7	111.5	110.6	143	180.2	9.2	150.9	124.2	118.5	555	2.4	334	2,991	3,560
4th qtr.	109.5	110.5	112.0	119	186.8	10.3	167.6	129.1	121.0	494	2.2	361	3,048	4,025
1974 1st qtr.	103.5	105.7	109.8	103	101.4†	12.9	212.5	138.3	125.0	546	2.4	286	3,500	4,779
2nd qtr.	107.8	109.3	107.3	104	107.5	15.8	213.7	148.9	132.2	552	2.4	311	3,900	5,216
3rd qtr.	108.6	110.2	111.0	109	110.2	17.0	212.9	156.1	143.9	592	2.7	306	4,161	5,371
4th qtr.	105.4	106.2	111.6	96	115.1	18.2	221.1	164.9	153.5	..	..	..	4,029	5,482
1975 1st qtr.			111.9 p	106	122.0	20.3	220.6 p	175.5 p	162.9	701	3.1	..	4,558 p	5,229 p
1974 Apr.	107.3	109.0	107.9	97	106.1	15.2	215.4	146.4	127.9	546	2.4	298	1,272	1,675
May	107.5	108.7	105.6	105	107.6	15.9	214.0	149.0	132.0	548	2.4	315	1,304	1,783
June	108.6	110.3	108.2	111	108.7	16.5	211.7	151.2	136.8	562	2.5	319	1,324	1,758
July	109.2	110.7	109.2	106	109.7	17.1	212.3	153.5	139.8	576	2.5	317	1,337	1,769
Aug.	109.1	111.2	111.4	102	109.8	16.9	213.7	156.1	145.5	597	2.6	301	1,378	1,787
Sept.	107.6	108.8	112.2	118	111.0	17.1	212.8	158.6	146.3	603	2.7	301	1,446	1,816
Oct.	107.0	107.5	111.4	102	113.2	17.1	220.1	162.2	148.7	607	2.7	294	1,347	1,841
Nov.	106.6	107.7	112.8	98	115.2	18.3	223.8	164.8	153.9	613	2.7	273	1,296	1,896
Dec.	102.8	103.5	110.8	87	116.9	19.1	222.5	167.6	157.9	..	..	..	1,386	1,745
1975 Jan.	105.2	107.2	113.0	109	119.9	19.9	221.9	172.8	159.6	678 e	3.0	..	1,562 p	1,837 p
Feb.	105.3	106.9	112.3	113	121.9	19.9	218.1 p	175.5 p	161.5	705	3.1	192	1,456 p	1,746 p
Mar.			110½p	97	124.3	21.2	221.8 p	178.2 p	167.7	722	3.2	186	1,540 p	1,646 p
Apr.										760	3.3	173		
% change latest 3 months on prev. 3 months	−2.5	−2.0	+0.2	+11.1	+6.0		−0.7	+6.4	+7.4	..		..	+13	−4½
on a year earlier	+0.8	+0.4	+2.0	+3.6	+20.3		+3.8	+26.9	+30.4	+32.9		−35.2	+30	+9½

(‡) Not seasonally adjusted. (§) On a balance of payments basis. * After April 1973, affected by changes due to VAT. † Base of index Jan. 1974 = 100.
+ Average of 11 months. e Figure is estimate.

Office development permit statistics in the fourth quarter and the year 1974

Symbols used in all statistical tables

.. not available	r revised
— nil or less than half the final digit shown	* five week period
p provisional	# fifty-three week period

The Department of the Environment report that 251 fewer permits were issued in the South East Region for office development in 1974 than in 1973 and that the amount of floor space covered by the total number issued in 1974 fell by 14 million sq. ft. The 1974 figures were considerably affected by the standstill on the issue of new permits which was introduced on 18 December 1973 and which remained in force, with some relaxations, until 30 July 1974.

The average amount of floor space per permit decreased between the two years from 54.3 thousand sq. ft. in 1973 to 52.7 thousand sq. ft. in 1974.

Fourth quarter of 1974

In the fourth quarter of 1974 the number of permits issued fell to 58 compared with 100 in the previous quarter. The floor space covered by these permits declined from 5.6 million sq. ft. to 2.1 million sq. ft.; in the fourth quarter of 1973, 90 permits covering 7.5 million sq. ft. were issued. Applicants for permits issued in the fourth quarter of 1974 stated that 0.1 million sq. ft. of the floor space applied for would be offset by demolition of existing offices or conversion to non-office use. If permits for continuing use of existing offices are also deducted the net potential addition to office floor space in the fourth quarter was 1.8 million sq. ft. compared with 4.6 million sq. ft. in the fourth quarter of 1973 and a quarterly average of 2.1 million sq. ft. for 1974 as a whole.

Annual comparison

The total area of the 226 permits issued in 1974 was 11.9 million sq. ft.; in 1973, 477 permits covering 25.9 million sq. ft. were issued. Included in the 1974 total were 36 permits with a floor area of 0.7 million sq. ft. issued for change of use from non-office to office use and 46 permits (2.1 million sq. ft. in area) for continuing use as offices. In terms of area the 1973 figures for these two categories were 0.6 million sq. ft. and 2.5 million sq. ft., respectively.

Gross area and area relinquished

Out of a total floor space of 11.9 million sq. ft. covered by permits issued in 1974, 1.3 million sq. ft. was claimed by applicants to be space relinquished by demolition or change from office to non-office use. The percentage of total area offset by relinquishments was 11 per cent in 1974 compared with 16 per cent in 1973 and 21 per cent in 1972.

Distribution within the South East Region

In 1974 185 permits were issued for office development in the

TABLE 1 Office development permits—sub-divisions of South East Planning Region

	Central London Area			Rest of Greater London			Total Greater London		
		Thousand sq. ft.			Thousand sq. ft.			Thousand sq. ft.	
	Number	Gross	Relinquished	Number	Gross	Relinquished	Number	Gross	Relinquished
1965 August-December	33	1,242	587	61	609	319	94	1,851	906
1966	69	1,229	676	142	1,700	906	211	2,929	1,582
1967	84	2,483	1,052	172	2,039	717	256	4,522	1,769
1968	127	6,601	4,051	169	2,099	518	296	8,700	4,569
1969	154	6,308	2,237	196	3,637	832	350	9,945	3,069
1970	266	10,921	4,827	238	5,100	895	504	16,031	5,722
1971	198	12,246	4,212	122	6,633	1,185	320	18,879	5,397
1972	139	10,302	3,788	125	7,299	1,496	264	17,601	5,284
1973	126	7,677	2,567	137	8,001	844	263	15,678	3,411
1974	51	4,606	609	72	2,532	229	123	7,138	838
1973 1st quarter	36	2,077	401	39	1,560	242	75	3,637	643
2nd quarter	32	1,565	72	45	2,651	62	77	4,216	134
3rd quarter	29	1,610	671	26	1,119	148	55	2,729	819
4th quarter	29	2,425	1,423	27	2,671	392	56	5,096	1,815
1974 1st quarter	13	1,425	313	18	681	94	31	2,106	407
2nd quarter	10	570	81	6	15	19	16	585	100
3rd quarter	13	1,769	212	32	1,346	84	45	3,115	296
4th quarter	15	842	3	16	490	32	31	1,332	35

TABLE 1 Office development permits—sub-divisions of South East Planning Region *(continued)*

	Metropolitan Area (excluding Greater London)			Total Metropolitan Area			South East (excluding Metropolitan Area)			Total South East		
		Thousand sq. ft.			Thousand sq. ft.			Thousand sq. ft.			Thousand sq. ft.	
	Number	Gross	Relinquished	Number	Gross	Relinquished	Number	Gross	Relinquished	Number	Gross	Relinquished
1965 August-December	71	804	150	165	2,655	1,056	—	—	—	165	2,655	1,056
1966	160	1,566	285	371	4,495	1,867	25	207	47	396	4,702	1,914
1967	185	1,638	326	441	6,160	2,095	84	937	194	525	7,097	2,289
1968	270	2,476	476	566	11,176	5,045	28	842	139	594	12,018	5,184
1969	82	1,957	364	432	11,902	3,433	32	1,374	107	464	13,276	3,540
1970	63	2,883	365	567	18,914	6,087	55	4,074	325	622	22,988	6,412
1971	127	6,884	360	447	25,763	5,757	76	3,198	303	523	28,961	6,060
1972	90	4,729	178	354	22,330	5,462	102	5,239	350	456	27,569	5,812
1973	130	5,732	454	393	21,410	3,865	84	4,484	325	477	25,894	4,190
1974	62	3,222	329	185	10,360	1,167	41	1,550	93	226	11,910	1,260
1973 1st quarter	51	2,260	109	126	5,897	752	23	1,086	99	149	6,983	851
2nd quarter	29	1,107	63	106	5,323	197	25	1,186	9	131	6,509	206
3rd quarter	34	1,272	148	89	4,001	967	18	852	37	107	4,853	1,004
4th quarter	16	1,093	134	72	6,189	1,949	18	1,360	180	90	7,549	2,129
1974 1st quarter	9	731	86	40	2,837	493	7	139	56	47	2,976	549
2nd quarter	} 35	} 1,956	} 197	} 96	} 5,656	} 593	} 25	} 1,138	} 24	21	1,225	116
3rd quarter										100	5,569	501
4th quarter	18	535	46	49	1,867	81	9	273	13	58	2,140	94

In some instances, in order to avoid the risk of disclosing details of individual applicants, figures for the second and third quarters of 1974 have been combined.

TABLE 2 Size analysis of permits

TOTAL SOUTH EAST PLANNING REGION

Thousand sq. ft.	1970		1971		1972		1973		1974	
	No.	Gross area	No.	Gross area	No.	Gross area	No.	Gross area	No.	Gross area
Up to 10	301	1,754	42	226	32	207	44	236	31	177
11-20	96	1,414	136	2,104	110	1,656	119	1,807	63	985
21-50	112	3,612	186	6,045	158	5,116	180	5,825	78	2,599
Over 50	113	16,208	159	20,586	156	20,590	134	18,026	54	8,149
Total	622	22,988	523	28,961	456	27,569	477	25,894	226	11,910
Average area per permit		37.0		55.4		60.5		54.3		52.7

GREATER LONDON

Thousand sq. ft.	1970		1971		1972		1973		1974	
	No.	Gross area	No.	Gross area	No.	Gross area	No.	Gross area	No.	Gross area
Up to 10	292	1,707	16	90	18	114	27	145	14	91
11-20	72	1,050	93	1,441	68	1,017	61	909	39	609
21-50	66	2,100	111	3,627	92	2,999	96	3.061	44	1,452
Over 50	74	11,174	100	13,721	86	13,471	79	11,563	26	4,986
Total	504	16,031	320	18,879	264	17,601	263	15,678	123	7,138
Average area per permit		31.8		59.0		66.7		59.6		58.0

SOUTH EAST (EXCLUDING GREATER LONDON)

Thousand sq. ft.	1970		1971		1972		1973		1974	
	No.	Gross area	No.	Gross area	No.	Gross area	No.	Gross area	No.	Gross area
Up to 10	9	47	26	136	14	93	17	91	17	86
11-20	24	364	43	663	42	639	58	898	24	376
21-50	46	1,512	75	2,418	66	2,117	84	2,764	34	1,147
Over 50	39	5,034	59	6,865	70	7,119	55	6,463	28	3,163
Total	118	6,957	203	10,082	192	9,968	214	10,216	103	4,772
Average area per permit		59.0		49.7		51.9		47.7		46.3

Notes to tables

Commencement of Controls. In the London Metropolitan Region the control began in August 1965, but with retrospective application to 5 November 1964 for some projects, as explained in the first annual report by the Board of Trade under the Act: this report was referred to in the *Board of Trade Journal* of 5 August 1966, page 324. The West Midlands Conurbation was brought within the control from 14 August 1965, while the parts of the South East and the West Midlands Planning Regions not already controlled and the whole of East Midlands and East Anglia Planning Regions came under control on 21 July 1966.

Removal of Controls. From 25 February 1969, the East Anglia Planning Region and the predominantly rural areas of the West Midlands and East Midlands Planning Regions were excluded from control. The remaining areas of the West Midlands and East Midlands Planning Regions were excluded from control on 16 December 1970. From 18 July 1974 the area comprising of Bournemouth, Christchurch and an adjacent parish which was transferred from the South East to the South West Region as a result of local government reorganisation was excluded from control.

Changes in Exemption Limit. From 27 July 1967, the exemption limit for permits was raised from 3,000 square feet to 10,000 square feet except in the Metropolitan Region. From 25 February 1969 this change was extended to the areas of the Metropolitan Region outside Greater London. The exemption limit in Greater London was raised to 10,000 square feet from 16 December 1970.

Modification of Control. From 1 April 1969, office development permits were in most cases no longer needed for developments within the curtilage of an industrial building for which an industrial development certificate was issued. The figures for the year 1968 included 168 permits of this type, with gross area 2,485,000 square feet (18 per cent of the total area of permits issued) and an area net of relinquishments of 2,103,000 square feet (24 per cent of the net total).

Definitions of Areas. Until 18 July 1974 the South East Planning Region corresponds to the standard region for statistical purposes as defined in the *Board of Trade Journal* of 31 December 1965, page 1567. Central London is the Greater London Conurbation Centre as defined in the General Register Office Census 1961 County Report: London. The Metropolitan Region, an area of some 40 miles radius from the Centre of London, is as defined in Schedule 13 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971, as amended by Article 13 of the Local Government, England and Wales (Miscellaneous Provision) Order 1974: from 1 January 1972 for statistical reasons the Outer Metropolitan Sub-Division (Rest of Metropolitan Region) and the Outer South-East Sub-division (Rest of South East Planning Region) are as defined in the Regional Abstract of Statistics No. 7: the areas defined under the Act are unchanged. From 18 July 1974 the South East Planning Region corresponds to the new standard region adjusted to take account of local government reorganisation, as defined in DOE Circular 69/74.

Area Relinquished. Comprises office floor space relinquished for demolition or change of use to non-office uses.

London Metropolitan Region covering 10.4 million sq. ft. (87 per cent of the total area covered by permits in the South East Region as a whole). Of this 11 per cent was offset by relinquishments. 123 permits were issued in the GLC area covering 7.1 million sq. ft. and 51 permits covering 4.6 million sq. ft. were issued in the Central London area. Relinquishments in these two areas accounted for 12 per cent and 13 per cent of the gross areas respectively. Permits issued in the GLC area accounted for 60 per cent of the total area covered in the South East as a whole while those issued in Central London accounted for 39 per cent of the South East total. The comparative figures for 1973 were 61 per cent and 30 per cent respectively.

Size of permits

Table 2 gives the distribution by size of permits issued. This has been affected by the changes in control listed in the notes which have tended from 1971 onwards to thin out the numbers in the lower size ranges. 251 fewer permits were issued in the South East Region in 1974 than in 1973, resulting in marked decreases in all size ranges. The fall in the amount of floor space covered by permits between 1973 and 1974 was 14 million sq. ft. of which nearly 10 million was in developments in the over 50,000 sq. ft. category.

Regional selective assistance

The table below shows, on a regional basis, the applications received, and offers made, under Section 7 of the Industry Act 1972 for the month indicated:

FEBRUARY

Assisted Area	Applications received	Offers made	
	No.	No.	Value (£000)
Scotland	9	12	480
Wales	16	8	261
Northern	22	13	215
North West	14	24	527
Yorks/Humberside	18	13	221
South West	4	2	68
East Midlands	3	3	13
West Midlands	—	—	—
Total	86	75	1,785

Acquisitions and mergers in the first quarter of 1975

Acquisition activity amongst industrial and commercial companies continued to decline during the first quarter of 1975. The financial press reported 56 acquisitions during the quarter involving a total expenditure of £47 million, compared with 84 companies acquired for £50 million in the quarter before. Table 1 shows that it was the fifth quarter running in which the number of companies acquired and the total expenditure on acquisitions were less than in the preceding quarter.

The largest acquisition during the quarter was that of New Day Holdings by 107 Baker Street Investments for £6.6 million. As shown in Table 2, the two largest acquisitions accounted for 25 per cent of the total expenditure. At the other end of the scale, 47 companies were each acquired for £2 million or less and together accounted for 33 per cent of the total expenditure. The average payment for acquisitions during the first quarter was £0.8 million, compared with an average of £0.6 million during the quarter before and an average of £1 million during 1974.

Table 3 shows that the proportion of expenditure accounted for by payment in cash continued at a high level during the first quarter, with 82 per cent in cash compared with 91 per cent during the quarter before, the highest recorded. The proportion accounted for by issues of ordinary shares recovered somewhat to 15 per cent. The proportion accounted for by issues of fixed interest securities remained less than 3 per cent.

Provisional figures show that two foreign companies were acquired during the quarter by United Kingdom companies for £5.5 million and that one United Kingdom company was acquired by a foreign company for £3 million.

Tables 1, 2 and 3 are taken from a more detailed analysis published in Business Monitor M7, Acquisitions and Mergers of Companies (obtainable from HMSO each quarter for an annual subscription of 52p). The Business Monitor also contains tables analysing acquisitions and mergers by industry.

Notes

This analysis relates only to industrial and commercial companies in the United Kingdom and is based on reports in the financial press supplemented by special inquiries to companies to determine the form, value and timing of particular acquisitions. The Bank of England compiles an analysis of acquisitions and mergers relating to financial companies (banks, insurance companies, etc.) which is published in the *Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin.*

No method of valuing acquisitions is altogether free from objection. The values shown here relate in general to expenditure during the current period, excluding any previous investments in the company acquired. Where possible, the values are market values, ie the cash paid or the market price at date of issue of shares or loan stock issued. Where market values are not available (as in

TABLE 1 Acquisitions and mergers within the United Kingdom

	Acquisitions of independent companies			Mergers†			Total			Sales of subsidiaries between company groups			Total number of acquisitions		
	Number Acquiring	Number Acquired	Value £ million	Number Acquiring	Number Acquired	Value £ million	Number Acquiring	Number Acquired	Value £ million	Number Acquiring	Number Acquired	Value £ million	Number Acquiring	Number Acquired	Value £ million
1969	593	742	961.6	2	2	7.6	595	744	969.2	91	102	99.7	686	846	1,068.9
1970	484	608	954.1	6	6	42.5	490	614	996.6	139	179	125.9	629	793	1,122.5
1971	498	620	745.6	—	—	—	498	620	745.6	189	264	165.5	687	884	911.1
1972	710	931	2,336.9	6	7	9.3	716	938	2,346.2	212	272	185.4	928	1,210	2,531.6
1973	722	949	1,055.2	2	2	2.3	724	951	1,057.5	205	254	246.8	929	1,205	1,304.3
1974	306	366	451.6	1	1	7.5	307	367	459.1	120	137	49.3	427	504	508.4
1972 1st quarter	156	207	426.0	2	2	0.1	158	209	426.1	53	69	39.6	211	278	465.7
2nd quarter	192	260	375.2	3	3	1.5	195	263	376.7	52	63	44.8	247	326	421.5
3rd quarter	166	220	666.2	1	2	7.7	167	222	673.9	50	63	52.2	217	285	726.1
4th quarter	196	244	869.5	—	—	—	196	244	869.5	57	77	48.8	253	321	918.3
1973 1st quarter	195	278	280.4	—	—	—	195	278	280.4	63	84	43.3	258	362	323.7
2nd quarter	164	203	179.4	—	—	—	164	203	179.4	43	53	26.2	207	256	205.6
3rd quarter	173	224	297.4	2	2	2.3	175	226	299.7	40	50	132.0	215	276	431.7
4th quarter	190	244	298.0	—	—	—	190	244	298.0	59	67	45.3	249	311	343.3
1974 1st quarter	116	149	231.3	—	—	—	116	149	231.3	36	42	21.3	152	191	252.6
2nd quarter	68	83	118.1	—	—	—	68	83	118.1	37	45	11.7	105	128	129.8
3rd quarter	64	73	59.0	1	1	7.5	65	74	66.5	25	27	9.0	90	101	75.5
4th quarter	58	61	43.2	—	—	—	58	61	43.2	22	23	7.3	80	84	50.5
1975 1st quarter	34	36	36.9	1	1	1.5	35	37	38.4	15	19	8.7	50	56	47.1

† A merger (which takes place when two companies combine to form a new company) is reckoned as the acquisition of the smaller company by the larger and is valued at the market value of the smaller company's share of the newly formed company.

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TABLE 2 Size distribution of acquisitions within the United Kingdom

Expenditure (£ million)	1973		1974		1974 Q2		1974 Q3		1974 Q4		1975 Q1	
	Number Acquired	Value £m.	Number Acquired	Value £m.	Number Acquired	Value £m.	Number Acquired	Value £m.	Number Acquired	Value £m.	Number Acquired	Value £m.
Over 25	7	281.2	3	151.1	1	33.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 5 and up to 25	50	471.7	16	142.5	7	59.0	3	22.3	2	17.6	2	11.8
Over 2 and up to 5	57	171.1	26	80.1	2	4.9	8	25.8	4	12.2	7	20.0
2 or less	1,091	380.3	459	134.7	118	32.3	90	27.4	78	20.7	47	15.3
Total	1,205	1,304.3	504	508.4	128	129.8	101	75.5	84	50.5	56	47.1

TABLE 3 Categories of expenditure on acquisitions and mergers within the United Kingdom

	Expenditure (£ million)				Percentage of expenditure		
	Total	Cash	Issues of ordinary shares	Issues of fixed interest securities	Cash	Issues of ordinary shares	Issues of fixed interest securities
1969	1,069	296	552	221	27.7	51.6	20.7
1970	1,122	251	596	275	22.4	53.1	24.5
1971	911	285	437	189	31.3	48.0	20.7
1972	2,532	493	1,459	580	19.5	57.6	22.9
1973	1,304	691	466	147	53.0	35.7	11.3
1974	508	347	114	47	68.3	22.4	9.3
1973 1st quarter	323.7	120.7	157.4	45.6	37.3	48.6	14.1
2nd quarter	205.6	90.1	92.0	23.5	43.8	44.8	11.4
3rd quarter	431.7	310.5	100.5	20.7	72.0	23.2	4.8
4th quarter	343.3	169.4	116.4	57.4	49.3	33.9	16.8
1974 1st quarter	252.6	189.8	51.0	11.8	75.1	20.2	4.7
2nd quarter	129.8	68.9	27.3	33.6	53.1	21.0	25.9
3rd quarter	75.5	42.3	32.6	0.6	56.1	43.1	0.8
4th quarter	50.5	46.2	3.3	1.0	91.5	6.5	2.0
1975 1st quarter	47.1	38.7	7.1	1.3	82.2	15.0	2.8

the case of unlisted securities) or the cash payment is not disclosed, acquisitions are in general valued at the net book value of the acquired company. When comparing the series over time one must allow for the considerable short-term fluctuations in share prices, in addition to allowing for the general inflation of values.

Where the acquired company was a subsidiary of another United Kingdom company, the transaction is classified as a sale between company groups. Acquisitions between subsidiaries of the same company group, in the course of internal reorganisation, have been ignored.

As far as possible, acquisitions are recorded at the date when the transaction is finalised (eg when the bid is declared unconditional). This date usually comes before the date on which the shares in the acquired company are surrendered, although it may be considerably later than the date when the bid is first announced in the press.

Energy trends: total energy use stays down

Provisional figures for total energy consumption in the United Kingdom during February, seasonally adjusted and temperature corrected, represented an annual rate of 324.7 million tons coal equivalent – the lowest level for nearly three years, apart from the crisis period of the winter of 1973-74.

This is reported in the latest issue of the Department of Energy's monthly statistical bulletin, *Energy Trends*, published on 1 May.

Also measured in seasonally adjusted terms, an increase in coal consumption in February was compensated by a sharp reduction in that for petroleum, which fell to its lowest level since the end of 1969. Coal and oil accounted for equal proportions of total energy consumption during the month – for the first time in four years.

Provisional figures for 1974 as a whole indicate that fuel use by final consumers, measured on a heat-supplied basis, was about 4 per cent down on the previous year. Petroleum use fell by 8 per cent and, despite the restrictions on supplies during the first quarter, consumption of solid fuels dropped by only a similar margin. Lower consumption of these fuels was compensated to some extent by gas, which rose by nearly 12 per cent.

Coal output and manpower up

Last month's production of opencast coal was the highest for more than two years. Output from deep mines in March, measured at an average weekly rate, showed a further small improvement on the previous month.

With recruitment continuing at a high level, and with fewer men leaving, there was a net increase in March of over 1,500 men in the work-force – the highest rise since last April. Total recorded stocks of coal increased slightly during the month, having fallen by less than a quarter of a million tons over the whole winter.

Refinery output lower

Reflecting the fall in recent months of total inland deliveries of petroleum products, output of refined products in February dropped to 6.7 million tons – the lowest for about four years and 20 per cent down both on February 1974 and on the latter months of that year.

Electricity sales down

Total sales of electricity in 1974 were about 3 per cent lower than in 1973, the bulk of the reduction being concentrated in the first quarter.

Electricity sales to industry as a whole were down by over 5 per cent, while other non-domestic users, largely commercial premises, reduced their electricity consumption by over 7 per cent.

Notes

The figures for November 1973 to March 1974 are progressively affected by the coal miners' overtime ban, their subsequent national strike, and by restrictions on fuel use. Cumulative totals and comparisons are also affected by these factors.

The figure of 324.7 million tons of coal equivalent, representing total energy consumption in Britain during February, is seasonally adjusted and temperature corrected, and calculated at an annual rate on a primary fuel input basis.

Overall energy consumption during the ten years 1963-73 grew at an average rate of a little over 2 per cent a year, on a primary fuel input basis.

Energy Trends is prepared by the Economics and Statistics Division of the Department of Energy. Copies are available free from: Information Division, Department of Energy, Room 1260, Thames House South, Millbank, London SW1P 4QJ.

New Business Monitor gives rapid manufacturers' sales figures for 150 industries

To meet the demand for early estimates of quarterly movements in manufacturers' sales, the Business Statistics Office has introduced a new Business Monitor – PQ 1002. The goal is to provide quarterly total sales figures for virtually every sector of UK industry (145 manufacturing industries, five mining industries) within 13 weeks of the end of the quarter covered.

'Business Monitor PQ 1002: manufacturing industries total sales' is available on subscription from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH, price 52p for a year's issues (including postage).

Business Monitor

The following titles and issues of Business Monitor are now available:

Production series

Monthly at £1.40 a year post free:

PM 476 Imported timber for February 1975

Quarterly at 52p each a year post free:

PQ 219 Animal and poultry foods for fourth quarter 1974
PQ 271 General chemicals for fourth quarter 1974
PQ 277 Dyestuffs and pigments for fourth quarter 1974
PQ 279.5 Printing ink for fourth quarter 1974
PQ 339.5 Scales and weighing machinery and portable power tools for fourth quarter 1974
PQ 339.7 Food and drink processing machinery and packaging and bottling machinery for fourth quarter 1974
PQ 391 Hand tools and implements for fourth quarter 1974
PQ 414 Woollen and worsted for fourth quarter 1974
PQ 431 Leather (tanning and dressing) and fellmongery for fourth quarter 1974
PQ 469.1 Abrasives for fourth quarter 1974
PQ 493 Brushes and brooms for fourth quarter 1974
PQ 499.1 Musical instruments for fourth quarter 1974
PQ 602 Electricity for fourth quarter 1974

1972 Report on the Census of Production (price including postage shown in brackets).

PA 601 Gas (27½p)

Business Monitors in the Production, Service and Distributive and Miscellaneous series are normally available by annual subscription from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH. The Census of Production reports are available on standing order from the same address or can be purchased separately from the Government Bookshops or through booksellers.

Exceptionally copies can be purchased over the counter at either the Department of Industry Central Library, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, or at the Department's Statistics and Market Intelligence Library, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU. Copies of specific issues (including back issues) can be ordered by post (payable in advance) from the Department's Central Library, which will supply prices on request (tel. 01-215 3038) or the Department's Library at the Business Statistics Office, Cardiff Road, Newport, Gwent NPT 1XG (tel. 0633-56111, ext. 2973, telex 497121/497122 – Answer back BSO Newport), from which a complete list of titles of Business Monitors is available on application.

Inquiries about the distribution of Business Monitors may be made to the Business Statistics Office (ext. 2700) whose address and telephone number appear above.

Retail sales in Northern Ireland in February

The seasonally adjusted index of retail sales in Northern Ireland in February was 200 (1965 = 100), 21 per cent more than in February 1974.

After allowing for price changes, the total volume of sales in February showed no change compared with the corresponding period last year.

The seasonally adjusted index numbers of the value of sales in February and percentage increases on a year earlier for the main groups of traders are shown in the table. More detailed information can be obtained from the Department of Commerce, Index of Retail Sales, 21 Linenhall Street, Belfast BT2 8BZ (tel. Belfast (0232) 28081, ext. 140).

	February 1975		
Sales by:	Sales in 1965 – £m	Seasonally adjusted value index numbers 1965 = 100	Percentages increases
All kinds of business	219	200	21
Food shops	97	220	18
Non-food shops	122	181	24
Of which:			
Clothing and footwear shops	36	196	26
Durable goods shops	21	179	26
Miscellaneous non-food shops	43	181	20
Department and general stores	22	165	28

Registrations of British, Community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the week ended Friday, 2 May 1975.
BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered no.	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Maker's name
			BRITISH		
Falling Angels	BR/E 38078/3/5/80	28	28 April	Columbia-Warner Distributors Ltd.	Nicholas Charles Granby
Movietone News 2395	BR/E 37825/3/5/80	8	2 May	British Movietonews Ltd.	British Movietonews Ltd.
			COMMUNITY		
The Infamous House Of Madame X	EC 38084/3/5/80	51	1 May	Cinecenta Film Distributors Ltd.	Les Productions du Chesne, Paris
			FOREIGN		
Shampoo	F 38077	110	28 April	Columbia-Warner Distributors Ltd.	Rubeeker Productions Inc., California
The Bears And I	F 38079	89	30 April	Walt Disney Productions Ltd.	Walt Disney Productions, California
Erotic Quartet	F 38080	78	30 April	Carnaby Pictures Ltd.	Radley Metzger, New York
Bed Games	F 38081	84	30 April	Carnaby Pictures Ltd.	Gill Champion, New York
Harry And Tonto	F 38082	115	30 April	Fox-Rank Distributors Ltd.	Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corporation, California
Oversexed	F 38083	75	1 May	Cinecenta Film Distributors Ltd.	Scotia American Productions, New York

Amendment to the Register
The title of the film 'Ricco' (F 37691), registered on 6 September 1974, has been amended to 'The Dirty Mob'.
Correction to the Register
The registration number of the film 'The Odessa File', registered on 28 October 1974, has been corrected to BR/E 37754 C/3/11/79

Index to statistics and organisational information published regularly in 'Trade and Industry'

A = annually M = monthly Q = quarterly 6M = every six months.

Title	Last published
Air transport: trade by air (6M)	28 Feb. 1975
Balance of payments:	
current account (M)	18 Apr. 1975
trends in invisible transactions (Q)	24 Oct. 1974
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Bankruptcy orders (Q)	20 Feb. 1975
Business names and limited partnerships (A)	30 Jan. 1975
Capital expenditure: manufacturing, distributive and service industries (Q)	4 Apr. 1975
Catering trades turnover (M)	18 Apr. 1975
Census of production (A)	19 Dec. 1974
(amendment)	16 Jan. 1975
Chemicals industry activity (Q)	6 Feb. 1975
Companies:	
acquisitions and mergers (Q)	This week
insolvencies (Q)	2 May 1975
liquidity (Q)	14 Mar. 1975
new registrations:	
Gt. Britain (M)	18 Apr. 1975
N. Ireland (M)	11 Apr. 1975
Construction work overseas (A)	17 Oct. 1974
EEC economic indicators	25 Apr. 1975
Energy trends (M)	This week
Engineering industries: sales and orders (M)	25 Apr. 1975
Film industry	
British Film Fund Agency returns (M)	11 Apr. 1975
cinema admissions and takings (M)	2 May 1975
overseas payments and earnings (A)	1 Aug. 1974
registrations of films (A)	6 Feb. 1975
Food:	
consumption levels (6M)	2 May 1975
household consumption (Q)	14 Mar. 1975
Footwear industry: production, orders and deliveries (M)	25 Apr. 1975
Foreign exchange: official reserves (M)	11 Apr. 1975
Foreign trade: industrial countries' production and trade (Q)	18 Apr. 1975
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Furniture orders and deliveries (M)	2 May 1975
Hire-purchase business (M)	11 Apr. 1975
Industrial production:	
index numbers (M)	25 Apr. 1975
N. Ireland index (M)	25 Apr. 1975
Insurance companies: investments and assets (A)	5 Sept. 1974
Investment:	
book values of overseas direct investments (every 3 years)	15 Nov. 1973
industry's investment intentions (3 times a year)	30 Jan. 1975
investment and earnings overseas (A)	14 Mar. 1975
(amendment)	21 Mar. 1975
Machine tools: sales and orders (M)	14 Mar. 1975
Man-made fibres:	
deliveries (Q)	7 Mar. 1975
production (M)	25 Apr. 1975
production: quarterly analysis (Q)	7 Mar. 1975
Motor industry:	
car and commercial vehicle production (M)	2 May 1975
estimated figures (M)	18 Apr. 1975
motor trade turnover (Q)	20 Feb. 1975
Office development permits (Q)	This week
Overseas trade of the UK:	
direct exporters and credit terms (A)	11 Apr. 1975
UK overseas trade in 1973	16 May 1974
unit value and volume index numbers (M)	18 Apr. 1975
value: analysis of trends (Q)	18 Apr. 1975
(*see also* Balance of payments)	
Paper and board production (M)	30 Jan. 1975
Pension funds: investments and assets (A)	5 Sept. 1974
Regional selective assistance (M)	This week
Retail prices index (M)	25 Apr. 1975
Retail trades:	
sales (M)	11 Apr. 1975
provisional figures (M)	25 Apr. 1975
sales, N. Ireland (M)	This week
stocks (M)	18 Apr. 1975
Royalties: overseas transactions (A)	11 Apr. 1975
Shipping: nationality of vessels in UK sea-borne trade (A)	23 Jan. 1975
Steel consumption and stocks (Q)	4 Apr. 1975
Stocks:	
manufacturers' and distributors' (Q)	4 Apr. 1975
retail (M)	28 Mar. 1975
Television: overseas payments and earnings (A)	1 Aug. 1974
Textiles:	
activity in the industry (Q)	25 Apr. 1975
carpet sales (M)	2 May 1975
cotton industry production (M)	2 May 1975
hosiery production (M)	21 Mar. 1975
made-up clothing: orders and deliveries (M)	25 Apr. 1975
orders and deliveries (M)	21 Mar. 1974
wholesale houses' sales (M)	2 May 1975
wool exports (Q)	25 Feb. 1975
wool output (M)	2 May 1975
Tourism:	
foreign visitor arrivals (M)	14 Mar. 1975
overseas travel and tourism (A)	7 Mar. 1975
Wholesale prices:	
average prices of selected commodities (A)	4 Apr. 1974
index numbers (M)	25 Apr. 1575

Departmental organisations, etc.

Subjects	Last published
British commercial representations overseas	4 Apr. 1975
Business Monitor titles	6 Sept. 1973
Customs notices of interest to exporters	25 Apr. 1975
ECGD local offices	14 Mar. 1975
Guide to Departments	7 Mar. 1975
Official Receivers' offices	21 Mar. 1975
Programme of trade promotions	18 Apr. 1975
Release dates of economic statistics	25 Apr. 1975

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Northern: Mr H. G. Roberts, Andrews House, Gallowgate, Newcastle upon Tyne NEI 4TB (Tel: 27575 – Telex 53277).

Yorkshire & Humberside: Mr T. Cooban, City House, Leeds LS1 4JG (Tel: 38232 – Telex Econ Plan 55472 – message to be prefixed for COI).

East Midland: To be appointed, Cranbrook House, Cranbrook Street, Nottingham NG1 1EW (Tel: 46121 – Telex 37572).

Eastern: Mr A. A. McLoughlin, Block D, Government Buildings, Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge CB2 2DF (Tel: 58911 – Telex 81187).

London & South Eastern*: Mr R. Dean, OBE, St. Christopher House Annexe, Sumner Street, London, SE1 (Tel: 01-928 2371 – Telex 918881 message to be prefixed for London Region).

Southern: Mr A. S. Poole, Market Place House, Reading RG1 2EH (Tel: 581261 – Telex 848216).

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Ulster Office: Northern Ireland Information Service, Stormont Castle, Belfast BT4 3ST (Tel: 63011).

Welsh Office: Mr Brian Evans, Director, Welsh Office Information Division, 42 Park Place, Cardiff CF1 3PY (Tel: 28066 – Telex 49327).

* National companies in central London, and particularly those with UK subsidiaries or branches, which require overseas publicity should consult Industrial Section at COI Headquarters: Mr E. Turnbull, Central Office of Information, Hercules Road, London SE1 7DU (Tel: 01-938 2345 ext. 271 – Telex 915444).

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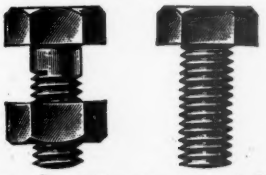

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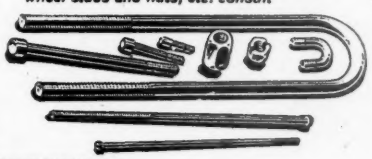

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